



children's **MISSION**



**Seeking
More**

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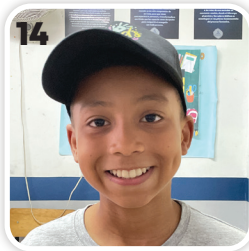
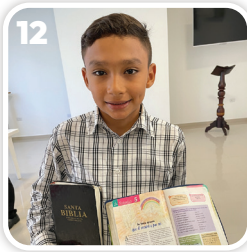
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12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601
1-800-648-5824 • AdventistMission.org



This quarter we feature the Inter-American Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 42 countries and territories in the Caribbean Sea, Central America, and the northern part of South America. The region is home to 305 million people and 3.7 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 82 people.

The Inter-American Division has chosen six projects in Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, and Mexico to receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. In collecting mission stories, I visited future project sites in Colombia, Costa Rica, and Dominica. You can find more information about those projects in the sidebar on this page and in related mission stories published in this *Children's Mission* quarterly.

During my trip to the Inter-American Division, I also visited the sites of two previous Thirteenth Sabbath projects in Costa

Rica and Trinidad and Tobago. In Costa Rica, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2021 helped open a center of influence at Central America Adventist University that trains missionaries and teaches life skills to at-risk children. In Trinidad and Tobago, I saw the rising structure of the first university church, a 2018 Thirteenth Sabbath project, at University of the Southern Caribbean. The university also received part of a 2021 offering to open a missionary training center. I heard first-hand accounts of God's power while interviewing people on the university campus, and you can find one of those stories, about Destiny, on page 18.

Special Features

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

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Inter-American Division at bit.ly/iad-2024. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. You also can download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* magazine at bit.ly/childrensmision, and *Mission Spotlight* videos at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

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 in your Sabbath School class.

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

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will support six projects in the Inter-American Division:

- Center of influence for at-risk children, Buenaventura, Colombia
- Center of influence for at-risk children, Puerto Tejada, Colombia
- Center of influence for at-risk children, Limón province, Costa Rica
- Ebenezer Elementary School, Roseau, Dominica
- Center of influence to reach upper class, Xalapa, Mexico
- Center of influence to reach upper class, Oaxaca, Mexico



COSTA RICA | July 6

Seeking More

Deymily

Shortly after 9-year-old Deymily moved to a new town in Costa Rica, a neighbor invited her to go to church.

“Come with us on Saturday,” Uncle Porfirio said.

Deymily was pleased with the invitation. She didn’t have any friends in the new town, and she didn’t have anything to do on Saturdays.

“I’d like that,” she said.

She asked Mother for permission to go to church. Mother had never heard of a church that worshipped on Saturdays.

“What kind of church is that?” she asked.

But Father knew all about worshipping on Saturdays.

“I grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” he said. “It’s a good church.”

So, Mother gave permission for Deymily to go to church on Saturday.

Uncle Porfirio arrived at Deymily’s house at 8:35 a.m. on Sabbath and took her on his motorcycle to church. His wife, Auntie Sara, followed them on foot. It wasn’t a very long walk from their house to the Adventist church.

It felt strange to Deymily to go to church on Saturday. In her old town, she had only gone

to church on Sundays. But she liked the music and the sermon at the Adventist church.

She returned to church the next Sabbath and the next.

Then she started going to prayer meetings at the church on Wednesday evenings. As she learned the Bible, a love for Jesus grew in her heart.

Deymily was so happy! But she longed for something more. She wished Mother was going to church, too.

One Sabbath, she invited Mother to go to church with her.

But Mother didn’t want to go. “I’m not ready to go to church now,” she said.

“Maybe later.”

“Come,” Deymily said. “Come and see me. I’m going to sing the special music at church today.”

Mother went to church with her.

The next Sabbath, Mother didn’t want to go again. But Deymily was leading the song service, so Mother went. After that, Mother went with Deymily to church every Sabbath.

Deymily was so happy! But she longed for something more. She was preparing



for baptism, and she wanted Mother to also be baptized.

“You have to get baptized at the church,” she said.

Deymily made her own set of Bible studies, and she used them to teach Mother about God.

Before long, Mother got baptized and joined the Adventist Church. Deymily was also baptized.

But that’s not the end of the story.

Deymily invited her friends to come to church. She studied the Bible with them, using the Bible studies that she had made for Mother. Five friends have given their hearts to Jesus in baptism: three classmates, a 12-year-old aunt, and a 12-year-old cousin.

Today, Deymily may be the happiest girl in Costa Rica! But she still longs for something more.

“Pray for my father and the rest of my family to accept Jesus and join the church,” she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about Jesus in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the location of Costa Rica on the map.
- Pronounce Deymily as: De-mily, like “Emily” with a “D” at the beginning.
- Pronounce Porfirio as: POR-fear-ee-o.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Deymily: bit.ly/Deymily.
- Know that Uncle Porfirio has invited many children to church. Over the past five years, 15 of those children, including Deymily, have been baptized.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- Know that this mission story and the Thirteenth Sabbath project to open a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica seek to fulfill 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: IWillGo2020.org.



MISSION RECORD

Frank and Cora Hutchins were the first Adventist workers on the coast of the Central American Caribbean in the late 19th and early 20th century. Frank worked as a dentist, colporteur, and pastor. At that time, the best way to get around the area was by boat, so Frank rented a boat for his trips until he could afford to buy a missionary schooner, which he named the “Herald.”



COSTA RICA | July 13

Karyeri

Monkey in the House

Little Karyeri loved her great-grandmother very much. Great-Grandmother loved Karyeri very much.

When Great-Grandmother fell ill, they spent hours together in the bedroom where Great-Grandmother stayed in the family house in Costa Rica.

Then Great-Grandmother got very, very sick, and she died.

Karyeri was very sad.

Father and Mother saw Karyeri's downcast face and bought her a little Schnauzer puppy. They hoped that little Tinky would make their daughter smile.

But the puppy died.

Now Karyeri was very, very sad.

"Mommy, everything that I love is gone," she said.

Mother held the little girl in her arms. They cried together.

A few days later, something scary happened. Evil entered the house.

Karyeri first saw the brown monkey wearing a red-and-white shirt in the living room. She was scared, and she ran to the kitchen. But the monkey was in the kitchen.

Then Karyeri fled to her bedroom, but the monkey was there, too.

Now Karyeri was very scared, and she told Father and Mother.

But her parents could not see the monkey. They didn't understand what was happening. They asked a Seventh-day Adventist pastor for help.

The pastor spoke with the little girl. She told him about her deep sadness over losing her great-grandmother and the puppy. She described how the monkey was appearing in the different rooms of the house.

The pastor had never heard such a story before. He prayed. He wondered if the monkey might be connected to Karyeri's deep sadness.

He told Father and Mother that their only hope was in God.

"Spend time with God, pray and read the Bible, and He will help," he said.

Father and Mother decided to make more time for God. The family had morning worship, but not every day. Sometimes Father and Mother were so busy that they forgot to call Karyeri to the living room



to read the Bible and pray for morning worship.

Something had to change. Father and Mother decided to have family worship, not only every morning but also every evening. So, before Karyeri played with her toys or ate breakfast in the morning, she went to the living room for worship. Before going to bed at night, she joined her parents for worship again.

Karyeri loved hearing stories from the Bible. As she listened, her sadness disappeared. As she listened, she smiled. When she learned that Jesus will return to the earth and raise the dead back to life, her face beamed with joy!

“Mommy, I want Jesus to come quickly,” she said.

“Why’s that?” Mother asked.

“Because I want to see my great-grandmother,” she said. “I know Jesus will raise her back to life.”

At every morning and evening worship, Karyeri prayed for the scary monkey to go away. Father also prayed, and Mother prayed.

As they prayed, the monkey grew smaller and smaller.

Then the day came that the monkey was no more. Karyeri stopped seeing it in the house.

Today, Karyeri is 10 years old, and she reads the Bible by herself for her personal morning devotions. Then she goes to the living room to have worship with the rest of the family. She loves to read about the Jesus who loves her and protects her from all scary things.

“Every morning, I have my own worship before I do anything else,” she said. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the location of Costa Rica on the map.
- Pronounce Karyeri as: KAR-jerry.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Karyeri: bit.ly/Karyeri.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- Know that this mission story and the Thirteenth Sabbath project to open a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica seek to fulfill 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: IWillGo2020.org.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about the Jesus who loves and protects them in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist churches mainly formed along the Caribbean coast, and many small churches grew near train stops along the railroad.



COSTA RICA | July 20

Snakebite!

Hickel

Eight-year-old Hickel darted across the grass on a hot Monday afternoon in Costa Rica.

School was out, and he was playing soccer with his 8-year-old friend, Royden.

The soft green grass of the churchyard felt good under his bare feet.

Then Hickel saw an opening, and he lunged for the ball. Raising his leg, he kicked the ball with all his might.

Suddenly, a sharp pain pierced the back of his foot.

Lifting his leg, he peered under his foot. A dark-brown snake with white stripes was dangling from his heel.

Hickel's eyes widened with horror, and he screamed, "Aaaaaaaaah!"

At that moment, the snake let go of his foot and slithered off into the grass.

Hickel's foot hurt, but he ran home as fast as he could. He was scared.

"Mother!" he cried. "A snake bit me!"

Mother heard his cries and ran out of the house. She was scared, too. She saw the two marks left by the snake's fangs on his heel.

Mother frantically called Father on the

phone. Father came home from work and took the boy to the clinic. The doctor pulled out a syringe and gave Hickel an injection. Then he looked at the boy with concern.

"Do you feel all right?" he asked.

Hickel didn't look well. He didn't look well because he didn't feel well.

The doctor knew what to do. He handed a plastic bag to the boy.

Hickel quickly put the bag over his mouth.

Blech!

The boy vomited his lunch of rice and boiled green bananas into the bag.

Thump!

Hickel fainted and fell to the floor.

No one knew what kind of snake had bitten the boy. Was it dangerous? Was Hickel's life in danger?

People ran to the churchyard to look for the snake. After a short search, the snake was found in the grass behind a small shed that served as the church's kitchen.

"It's a baby velvet snake!" someone called out.

The velvet snake is the most poisonous snake in Costa Rica.

Someone killed the snake and took it to the doctor.

This was a serious emergency. The doctor



called an ambulance.

A short time later, the ambulance was rushing Hickel from the clinic to the nearest city hospital. It was dark when Hickel arrived two hours later in the city of Limón.

It was scary being in the hospital. It was scary having a big, swollen foot. Hickel was scared, and he asked Mother to pray to God for help.

Mother and Hickel closed their eyes.

“God, please heal Hickel’s foot,” Mother prayed. “Help him to leave the hospital soon.”

Then she told the boy to have faith that God was with him.

Hickel believed.

On his third day in the hospital, Hickel received a clean bill of health and was sent home. He was very happy! He knew that God had heard Mother’s prayer and healed him.

Back at home, the whole town heard about Hickel’s snakebite and his astonishing recovery. Everyone was amazed to see the healthy and happy boy.

“It is a miracle,” someone said.

“There is a God who takes care of His children,” said someone else.

The next Sabbath, nine people came to church after hearing how God had answered Mother’s prayer. All nine gave their hearts to Jesus and got baptized.

Hickel is happy to be alive.

“God saved me from the snake,” he said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will teach at-risk children about the power

of prayer in Costa Rica. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the location of Costa Rica on the map.
- Pronounce Hickel as: EE-kel.
- Pronounce Royden as: ROY-den.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Hickel: bit.ly/Hickel-IAD.
- Know that the velvet snake is also known as the fer-de-lance.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- Know that this mission story and the Thirteenth Sabbath project to open a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica seek to fulfill 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: IWillGo2020.org.



AMAZING COUNTRY

The guitar is popular in Costa Rica, especially when accompanying folk dances; but the national instrument of Costa Rica is the marimba.



BigStockPhoto.com



COSTA RICA | July 27

Michelle

Waiting for a Mother

Michelle was born into a family that was not like the happy families you see in storybooks. Her mother, unfortunately, had a problem with alcohol and didn't care for Michelle and her seven brothers and sisters. Eventually, she left them all alone, and as a result, Michelle and her brothers and sisters had to go to an orphanage.

Michelle was only 4½ years old when she arrived at the orphanage in Costa Rica. At the orphanage, she lived in a normal house with 11 other girls and an auntie who took care of them. They went to school, had food to eat, and got clothes and shoes.

But Michelle wanted something more than food, clothes, and shoes. She wanted a mother.

Time passed, and her longing for a mother grew and grew.

When Michelle was 11, she went to a concert at the orphanage, and there she saw a beautiful woman singing gospel songs. Michelle couldn't stop looking at the woman.

A short time later, the woman, whose name was Stephanie, formed a children's choir at the orphanage. Michelle loved to

sing, so she joined the choir.

Michelle saw Stephanie more and more often. Stephanie came to Michelle's house and gave Bible studies to her, the 11 other children who lived in the house, and the auntie who cared for them.

On Michelle's 12th birthday, Stephanie threw a special birthday party for all 12 girls in Michelle's house.

"We are going to celebrate everyone's birthday!" she said.

But Michelle knew that the birthday party was especially for her.

The girls ate pizza and a white-and-green cake, and they watched a movie about a Seventh-day Adventist doctor. It was an extra-fun birthday for Michelle. She felt like Stephanie was saying, "I want you."

On vacations, Stephanie took Michelle to church. One day, as Michelle listened to a preacher talk about God's love, she realized that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus.

"I want to get baptized," she whispered.

"Oh, really?" Stephanie asked.

"Yes!" Michelle said, emphatically.

Michelle was baptized. She was so happy!



She knew that she was God's daughter. She had a Father in heaven. But something was missing. She still wanted a mother on earth.

Michelle gathered all her courage and asked Stephanie, "Why don't you adopt me?"

Stephanie was surprised and asked if she really wanted it. Michelle's answer was a resounding "Yes!"

Stephanie cautioned that adoption wasn't an easy path. They needed government permission, and there were many hurdles to overcome. But they decided to try.

One day, Stephanie came to the orphanage with big news.

"Pack your things because you are going home with us," she said.

Michelle couldn't believe it. She was finally going to have her own family. She packed her things and left. She was so happy! Finally, she had a real mother.

Now Michelle is studying to become a nurse at the Adventist university in Costa Rica. She dreams of becoming a missionary nurse one day. She wants to help others, just like her adopted mother helped her.

But Michelle knows that not all children are as fortunate as she is. "You are an exception," her adopted mother says. "But what happens to the other ones?"

In Costa Rica, when children turn 18, they have to leave the orphanage and find work. Many end up with no future, falling into problems like alcohol and drugs. That's why Michelle and her adopted mother are working together to give Bible studies

Story Tips

- Show the location of Costa Rica on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Michelle: bit.ly/IAD-Michelle.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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- Know that this mission story and the Thirteenth Sabbath project to open a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica seek to fulfill 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: IWillGo2020.org.

at Michelle's old orphanage. That's why part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is going to Costa Rica, where it will help orphans and other at-risk children learn about God. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

There are many brightly colored toads and frogs in Costa Rica, including the poison dart frog, whose skin secretions were used by indigenous peoples to poison the tips of blow darts.



BigStockPhoto.com



COLOMBIA | August 3

Samuel

To the Feet of Jesus

Samuel had a big dream when he was 7. He dreamed of leading many people to the feet of Jesus. He wanted many people to know Jesus and to love Jesus just like him. But he was afraid because he was only a small child.

So, he prayed, “Lord, please help me to win at least one soul for You.”

He prayed, and he prayed. He prayed the same prayer for four years.

Then, when he was 11 years old, he and his family moved to a new city in Colombia. He thought excitedly, “This may be my opportunity to win souls.” He prayed, “Lord, please help me. I want to win my first soul for you.”

At his Seventh-day Adventist school, Samuel quickly noticed that there were many children who did not come from Adventist families. One of those classmates was 14-year-old Johann. Samuel knew for sure that Johann was not from an Adventist home because he used bad words when he spoke to the other boys. Johann also didn’t know the Bible. When the teacher asked questions in Bible class, Johann didn’t seem to know any of the answers.

Samuel thought to himself, “Johann is my opportunity!”

Samuel started to talk to Johann about the Bible whenever they saw each other. He found out that Johann didn’t own a Bible of his own.

One day, during worship time at school, Johann leaned over and asked Samuel, “May I read from your Bible?”

“Of course,” Samuel replied, and handed over his children’s picture Bible.

Johann opened it up and began to read.

“Oh, this is interesting,” he said.

Samuel looked over to see what Johann was reading. He was reading Jesus’ parable about the shepherd looking for the lost sheep in Luke 15.

At the end of the worship service, the children were invited to pray with each other.

Samuel prayed with Johann.

“Lord, please help Johann to become a better boy,” he prayed. “Give him the chance to choose You.”

Johann liked the prayer. “Thank you,” he said when Samuel finished. He didn’t pray.

The next day, Samuel put two Bibles in



his backpack when he went to school, one for himself and one for Johann. The second Bible was a black Bible that his father had given him for his ninth birthday.

His chance to give the Bible to Johann came during recess, when Johann asked, “Can I read your Bible again?”

Samuel was so happy!

He said, “Of course! You can read my Bible whenever you want.”

Reaching into his backpack, he took out the two Bibles and gave the black one to Johann.

Then the two boys opened the Bibles and read a story. Afterward, Samuel prayed, thanking God that they could read together and asking for help in understanding what they had read.

After that, Samuel and Johann read the Bible every day at recess.

Before long, Johann also wanted to pray when they finished reading the Bible. His first prayer was simple.

“Lord, I’m here,” he said. “Help me. Thank You for my family. Thank You for giving me the opportunity to study. Help me to study well.”

After reading the Bible together for two weeks, Samuel invited Johann to give his heart to Jesus in baptism. Johann agreed!

Today, Johann is a new boy. Before, he used bad words and didn’t know the Bible. Now, he uses only kind and pure words, and he is getting to know the Bible — and God —very well.

Samuel is happy that he could lead Johann to Jesus’ feet, and he is praying that he will be able to share Jesus with many more people.

He said, “It doesn’t matter your age or the

Story Tips

- Show Colombia on the map.
- Pronounce Johann as: Dzho-KHAN.
- Know that the photo depicts Samuel with his two Bibles.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Samuel: bit.ly/Samuel-IAD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- 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: IWillGo2020.org.

knowledge that you have, you can talk to people about Jesus.” 🌍

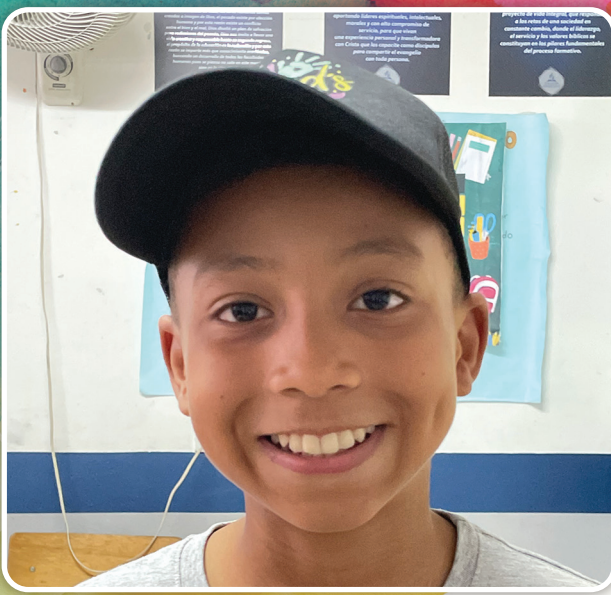
Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

Although for many years Adventists suffered from persecution for their beliefs, the Colombian government passed laws in 1991 that protected people’s freedom to worship the way they wanted to.



COLOMBIA | August 10

Aaron

“No” to Church

One Sabbath, Aaron declared that he didn't want to go to church anymore.

The Covid-19 quarantine had been lifted a few weeks earlier in Colombia. People could finally go to church after being stuck at home for many months. But something was different. There were no children who were Aaron's age at church, and 9-year-old Aaron, who was outgoing, didn't like that at all.

On the third Sabbath, he announced his decision to his mother.

“I don't want to go back to church,” he said.

Mother didn't say anything, but she felt very sad.

Later that day, she talked it over with Father. “We have to do something about this,” she said. “If Aaron's friends don't go to church, we have to bring the church to our home.”

Father thought it was a good idea. So, he and Mother drew up a plan and presented it to Aaron. “We are going to open our house, and you are going to invite over your friends,” Mother said.

Father said they would watch a movie about Jesus.

“We're going to teach them about Jesus,” he said. “We're going to do mission.”

Aaron smiled. He liked the idea, and he exclaimed, “Yes!”

Aaron liked challenges. Inviting friends home to learn about Jesus definitely was a challenge.

He ran out of the house and almost immediately saw a 9-year-old friend who lived nearby.

“Would you like to come to my house and watch a cartoon about Jesus on Wednesday evening?” he asked.

“Yes!” the boy exclaimed.

Aaron found a second friend and asked the same question. The friend also agreed to come.

But some friends declined his invitation. One said, “I can't come because I have to play soccer.” A girl said, “I definitely cannot come because I have to go to a party.” A third friend said, “I can't come because I have to go eat at that time.”

Aaron didn't mind. He understood that not everyone loves Jesus or wants to know more about Him.



On the first Wednesday evening, 15 boys and girls gathered at Aaron's home.

First, Aaron asked the children about their week. Then they sang some Christian songs, and Aaron asked if anyone had any prayer requests. After praying, they watched a cartoon about the creation of the earth.

Afterward, Father asked the children what they had learned about God. He said that he had learned that God created all people. "We did not evolve from monkeys," he said.

As children came to Aaron's house week after week, Father and Mother realized that they needed to do more than watch Christian cartoons. Several boys and girls spoke very rudely. One boy was always hitting the other children. Watching a cartoon was not enough to teach the children to have good values.

So, Aaron began to invite his friends to another meeting on Sabbath afternoons. Each meeting taught good values through Bible verses and fun activities.

Before long, many, many children were coming to Aaron's house on Wednesday evenings and Sabbath afternoons. Aaron began to invite them to go with him to church on Sabbath mornings as well.

Six months after Aaron told Mother that he no longer wanted to go to church, he had changed his mind. He was happy to go to church on Sabbath because the church was filled with children who were his own age. He had brought them all there. In fact, he had brought enough friends to church to form their very own Sabbath School class — and 10 of his friends were preparing to

Story Tips

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- 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: IWillGo2020.org.

give their hearts to Jesus and get baptized.

"I'm happy to go to church because the church has children my age," Aaron said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist radio station in Colombia began to broadcast programs on October 26, 2019, and was called Esperanza (Hope) Colombia Radio.



COLOMBIA | August 17

Miracle of Music

Moises

Moises was only 8 years old when his family moved from Venezuela to Colombia in South America.

He noticed right away that many boys acted rowdy and spoke roughly in his new school.

He thought, “If they knew and loved Jesus, they wouldn’t act and speak like that.”

He wondered how he could introduce them to Jesus.

Then he had an idea.

At recess, he invited some of the children to read the Bible with him on the playground. Three children agreed, and they gathered around him as he opened his Bible to Daniel.

After three weeks, 10 children were gathering around Moises during recess to hear him read the Bible. The teachers were amazed to see the children earnestly talking about Daniel and Revelation. One of them called Moises’ father to express her surprise. Moises’ father was not surprised. At home, Moises had been asking him how to teach Daniel and Revelation to the children, and he was proud of his son.

After two months, the Bible group grew so big that they began to meet during lunchtime

on the playground. The children ate as they discussed the Bible.

Moises decided at that point that the group was so big that it needed a name. He thought and thought about it. He prayed and prayed about it. Then he settled on the name Ebenezer. The word “Ebenezer” is composed of two Hebrew words: “eben,” which means “stone,” and “ezer,” which means “help.” Moises wanted the children to remember that God was their “Stone of Help.”

Months passed, and Moises’ classmates were as rowdy as before.

Moises was so disappointed. He wondered if there might be a better way to teach his classmates about Jesus. He thought and thought about it. He prayed and prayed about it.

Then he noticed something. All the children seemed to like music. He could understand why. He also liked music. In fact, he could play the keyboard, guitar, violin, flute, and the ukulele. But many of his classmates couldn’t play any musical instruments.

Moises decided to open a music club. He would teach his classmates how to play



music that praised God.

Six children eagerly joined the music club when it opened. Moises provided musical instruments so children could practice at school. He even allowed his classmates to take his violin and flute to practice at home.

The club grew and grew as Moises taught the children how to play beautiful hymns of praise.

The club became known for playing wonderful music. Before long, the young musicians were playing at worship services and other school events. At the end of the year, they played at the graduation ceremony.

Year after year passed. Moises led the music club until he finished the ninth grade. The school didn't have 10th grade, so he had to move to another school to finish high school.

But the music club continued to meet. After Moises left, the school decided to make music an official subject, and it asked Moises to be the first teacher of its weekly music class.

So, Moises may be only 14 years old today, but he is already the music teacher of 25 students.

Every Thursday, he leaves high school early to teach the music class at his old school.

He doesn't receive any money for his work. He teaches music out of the kindness of his heart. He teaches music because he wants children to know Jesus.

His work is showing results. One boy who used to act rowdy and speak roughly has given his heart to Jesus and been baptized. He is a new boy.

Story Tips

- Show Venezuela and Colombia on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Moises: bit.ly/Moises-IAD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
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Moises hopes many other children also will get to know Jesus.

"I started the music group to bring children to Jesus," he said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about Jesus in Colombia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

Colombia's rare spectacled bears are South America's only bear species.



BigStockPhoto.com



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO | August 24

Destiny

Destiny's Adventure

In a poor neighborhood in Trinidad and Tobago lives a girl named Destiny. She is a bright girl with a heart full of curiosity and a spirit eager for adventure. She has a special story that started when she was just a little kid.

You see, when Destiny was only 2 years old, she lived with her great-grandmother, auntie, uncle, and two brothers. Her mother had to go away for a while because of some family problems. The family was very poor.

One day, Destiny heard her two brothers talking about Adventurers, a club where children could learn about Jesus and participate in fun activities. Destiny's heart fluttered with curiosity. She was bored at home and longed for new adventures.

Destiny asked her great-grandmother if she could go with her brothers to the club. But her great-grandmother said she was too little.

"No, sweetie, you're a bit young for that," her great-grandmother said.

Destiny put down her head and looked sad. It seemed like her dreams for adventure were over.

But then, on a warm Sunday evening,

Destiny and her great-grandmother were coming back from the store when they saw Auntie Onessa, the leader of the Adventurer club. She was walking home with kids who had just been to the club meeting at her house.

Auntie Onessa noticed Destiny and talked to her great-grandmother.

"What's her name?" she asked.

"Destiny," her great-grandmother answered.

With a kind smile, Auntie Onessa turned to Destiny and asked, "Would you like to join our club?"

Destiny's heart raced with excitement, and she nodded eagerly.

She looked to her great-grandmother to see what she would say.

Her great-grandmother smiled.

"Sure, you can go," she said.

And that's when Destiny's new adventure began. Destiny joined the Eager Beaver class, which met every Sunday at Auntie Onessa's house.

At the first meeting, she learned the Adventurer pledge and law. With enthusiasm, she declared, "Because Jesus loves me, I will always do my best!"



When she got home that evening, she happily told her great-grandmother, “I’m not bored anymore!”

As Destiny kept going to the club meetings, she began to feel like she belonged to a big family. Auntie Onessa became like a mother to her, teaching her stories from the Bible.

At first, Destiny didn’t know many Bible stories, but she wanted to learn. Slowly but surely, she discovered the stories of Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the big fish, and many more. Her favorite story was the story of Esther.

Destiny loved spending time with Auntie Onessa. She enjoyed the Adventurer meetings so much that she didn’t want to leave. After her brothers went home, she began staying at Auntie Onessa’s house for family worship. Then she spent weekends and even weekdays at Auntie Onessa’s house. She went to church with Auntie Onessa on Sabbaths, and she even sang special music in church. Her great-grandmother was happy that Auntie Onessa was taking good care of her.

The day came when Auntie Onessa gave Destiny a room to call her own. Destiny moved in with Auntie Onessa. She had a new home.

But Destiny’s adventure didn’t end there. She decided to be baptized on her 12th birthday.

Everyone in the neighborhood has seen how Destiny’s life has changed after she got to know God through Auntie Onessa and the Adventurer club. They are so happy for her, and they want to know God, too!

And so, Destiny went from a little girl

Story Tips

- Show Trinidad and Tobago on the map.
- Watch a YouTube video of Destiny: bit.ly/Destiny-IAD.
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with a longing heart to a bright light in her community, inspiring others with her journey. 🌍

Part of a 2018 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to build a church at the University of the Southern Caribbean, near where Destiny lives. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helps teach people about God in Trinidad and Tobago and around the world.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

Trinidad and Tobagonian food is known for its many seafood dishes, especially curried crab and dumplings.



BigStockPhoto.com



DOMINICA | August 31

Not a Monster

Khyshawn

Teacher stood at the front of the classroom at the public school in Dominica. Rows of little first-grade children sat in their seats. Teacher spoke. The children listened. Except one.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

The noise interrupted Teacher as she spoke in the otherwise quiet classroom.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher stopped and frowned. Where was the sound coming from? She looked around the room. Her eyes stopped on 6-year-old Khyshawn.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

The little boy had a pencil in his hand, and he was slowly tapping it against his wooden desk.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

“Khyshawn,” Teacher said. “Stop doing that.” Khyshawn laid the pencil down on the desk. Teacher resumed speaking. The children resumed listening. Several minutes passed. But then,

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher looked upset. Some of the children tittered. Khyshawn didn’t notice. He was too busy.

Tap ... tap ... tap.

“Khyshawn,” Teacher said. “I told you to stop doing that.”

Everything was quiet for a few more minutes. Then again,

Tap ... tap ... tap.

Teacher picked up her phone and called Khyshawn’s mother.

“Take Khyshawn home,” she said.

Mother arrived at the school a short time later.

It wasn’t the first time that Teacher had called.

Khyshawn was a good boy. But he had trouble focusing on school. He was easily distracted and couldn’t keep still. He kept his mind occupied by tapping his pencil.

Tapping wasn’t the only way that Khyshawn disrupted the class. Sometimes, he got tired of sitting still, and he began to run around the classroom.

Teacher would ask him to sit, and he obeyed. But after a few minutes he would get up and run again.

Finally, Teacher would call Mother.

“He’s disrupting the class,” she would say. “Come, take him home.”

One day, Khyshawn asked Mother if he was a monster. He had heard the mother of



another boy call him a monster in front of the school principal.

Mother looked sad. She held the boy in her arms.

“No, you are not a monster,” she said. “You just have ADHD.”

Khyshawn was not a monster. He only had ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder), which made it harder for his mind to focus and his body to stay still. His brain just worked differently.

Mother wasn’t sure what to do. Then one of her friends told her about a Seventh-day Adventist school. “Go to the principal and tell her about your situation,” the friend said.

Mother did.

The principal said her class was very full and she didn’t have any space for more children. But when she heard Khyshawn’s story, she said, “I’ll give him a chance.”

On Khyshawn’s first day at the Adventist school, nobody called Mother to come and take him home.

When Mother arrived to pick him up after school, the principal said, “He’s a normal boy.”

Mother was so happy!

Khyshawn was also happy. On his first day of school, he had made a new friend.

Khyshawn is now 7 years old and in the second grade. He no longer taps his pencil on the desk or runs around the classroom. His teacher gives him so many things to do that he doesn’t have time to be distracted.

He likes his school. He likes praying and learning about God. He likes it when the teacher tells the children, “God loves you. God loves everyone.”

At home, he asks Mother, “Does God really love me?”

“Yes,” Mother says. “God loves all His children.”

He likes knowing that he is loved. Mother loves him. The teachers and other children love him. Most of all, God loves him. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Khyshawn’s school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary

Story Tips

- Show Dominica on the map. Then show Dominica’s capital, Roseau, where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct an elementary school.
- Pronounce Khyshawn as: KEE-shann.
- Watch a YouTube video of Khyshawn’s mother, Tamara: bit.ly/Tamara-IAD.
- Know that Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School is a real mission school where many children, including Khyshawn, come from families from other religious denominations. The word “Ebenezer” is composed of two Hebrew words: “eben,” which means “stone,” and “ezer,” which means “help.” The name of the school reminds everyone that the Lord is their “Stone of Help.”
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- 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: IWillGo2020.org.

School, expand with a new building in Dominica’s capital, Roseau. The school was full when Khyshawn’s mother wanted to enroll him, and it remains full and in need of a larger building. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

By Andrew McChesney



DOMINICA | September 7

Playing Favorites

Nikita

Nothing seemed fair the year that Nikita was in the second grade.

Father was a medical doctor, and he had to work far away from the Seventh-day Adventist school where Nikita had gone to first grade on the island of Dominica. So, Nikita had to go to a new school for second grade.

Mother was far away in Cuba, studying to become a medical doctor. So, Nikita could only talk to her by phone — and not every day because Mother was very, very busy.

The problems started during the first week of second grade. The school secretary was Nikita's older cousin, and she treated Nikita differently than the other children.

When Nikita arrived at school, she didn't have the dark-brown uniform that all the other children wore. She wore her regular clothes. The school secretary didn't say anything about her not wearing the uniform.

But several other children also came to school in their regular clothes, and the school secretary noticed. She scolded them, saying, "You always wear the wrong clothes!"

Then Nikita came to school late one day. The school secretary didn't say anything. But

several other children also arrived late, and she noticed. She scolded them, saying, "You always come to school late!"

Nikita and the other children ran and made a lot of noise on the playground before school started. The school secretary didn't say anything to Nikita. But she scolded the other children, saying, "You're always making noise, and you are always running up and down!"

Soon the children noticed that the school secretary was scolding them but never scolding Nikita.

"You're getting away with things," one boy said. "You can do whatever you want."

"The school secretary is choosing favorites," said another.

Their words hurt Nikita, and she didn't think it was fair. "I'll get you in trouble if talk that way," she said.

But the children laughed at her.

"You can't do anything," said one.

"You're too small and weak," said another.

Nikita told a teacher about what was going on, but the teacher didn't do anything.

Nikita told Father, but nothing changed. She didn't tell Mother. Mother was too busy.

After Nikita finished second grade, Father was transferred back to the hospital near the



Adventist school where Nikita had gone to first grade. She was so happy!

On the first day of third grade, Nikita ran to Ebony, her best friend from first grade. The two girls hugged each other tightly and began to cry. The tears were not tears of sadness but tears of joy.

Then Ebony pulled back, pretended to look cross, and scolded Nikita.

“How could you leave the school and leave me all by myself?” she said,

Nikita knew that Ebony was joking, and the girls laughed happily.

At the Adventist school, none of the grown-ups showed favoritism. All the children were treated equally and fairly.

The Bible says, “For God does not show favoritism” (Romans 2:11, NIV). That means that God does not love one child more than another. Christians also should not love anyone more than another. The Bible says, “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism” (James 2:1). The school secretary had wanted to help Nikita, but she made a mistake in playing favorites. As a result, life was unfair for Nikita in the second grade.

Now, Nikita is 11 years old and in the sixth grade. She is happy to still be studying at the Adventist school.

“I think Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School is the best school on the island,” she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Nikita’s school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, expand with a new building in Dominica’s capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 28.

Story Tips

- Show Dominica on the map. Then show Dominica’s capital, Roseau, where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct an elementary school. Also show Cuba, where Nikita’s mother was studying when Nikita was in the second grade.
- Know that Dominica’s name is pronounced with emphasis on the third syllable: daa-muh-NEE-kuh.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Nikita: bit.ly/Nikita-IAD.
- Know that the word “Ebenezer” is composed of two Hebrew words: “eben,” which means “stone,” and “ezer,” which means “help.” The name of the Ebenezer school reminds everyone that the Lord is their “Stone of Help.”
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By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

In 1901, the first Sabbath-keepers came to Dominica from Antigua and started a small church.



DOMINICA | September 14

Kitona

Once Raging, Now Refined

Seven-year-old Kitona had a fiery temper. At school, she sprang out of her chair when a passing boy lightly brushed against her leg. She raised her fists to fight and yelled, “He hit me!”

Teacher didn’t want any fights in her classroom, and she asked the boy what had happened.

“I only brushed against her leg as I walked by,” he said. “I didn’t do it on purpose.”

Other children agreed that he had not done anything to hurt Kitona.

Teacher tried to calm the angry girl.

“He accidentally brushed against you,” she said.

But Kitona refused to back down. Her fists were still clenched, and she was breathing heavily. She was sure that the boy had attacked her.

“He hit me!” she screamed.

This is how it was whenever Kitona lost her temper at Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School on the Caribbean island nation of Dominica. She did well on her schoolwork. The teachers called her brilliant. But she lacked self-control. If

someone touched her or took something that belonged to her, she jumped out of her chair in a rage, ready to fight.

One day, a boy named Keron took a pencil off Kitona’s desk. He wanted to borrow it for his schoolwork.

Kitona was furious. She jumped to her feet, punched Keron in the face, and yelled, “Give it back!”

Keron didn’t like being punched in the face, and he swung back.

Soon the boy and girl were on the floor, trading blows.

Then the principal entered the classroom.

“Take your seats,” she ordered.

Keron immediately sat down at his desk. Kitona didn’t.

“Kitona, take your seat,” the principal said.

But Kitona wasn’t finished with the fight. Keron had hit her last, and she wanted to land the last blow.

She ran toward Keron.

But the principal stepped forward, blocking her path.

Kitona didn’t think that was fair. She had to give the last punch. In a rage, she began to



hit the principal.

Kitona only calmed down after the teacher took Keron out of the classroom and she couldn't see him anymore.

Then the principal called Kitona's mother.

As punishment for hitting Keron and the principal, Kitona was suspended from school for three days.

Mother was in tears when she arrived for Kitona. She didn't know what to do. The principal and other teachers cried with Mother. They also didn't know what to do. They loved Kitona, but her temper seemed beyond control.

After talking over the matter, the principal and other teachers decided to shower the girl with love and patience. They also decided to pray.

Then something incredible happened. As weeks and months passed, Kitona became more patient, and the conflicts grew fewer. Finally, the conflicts stopped altogether. The girl once known for her fiery temper became known for being kind and courteous.

When Kitona graduated from school, she felt bad about the way she had acted. She remembered the love and patience that the teachers had shown her. She decided to do something to show her appreciation. She established a special prize called the "Kitona Theophile Refinement Award," which is named after her. The prize is for girls and boys who, like her, once lacked self-control but later became kind and courteous. Every year, she presents the prize — which is a glass plaque — to the winning student.

"The love of teachers at Seventh-day Adventist schools are responsible for who I am today," she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Kitona's elementary school, Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, expand with a new building in Dominica's capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning to give a generous offering on September 28.

Story Tips

- Show Dominica on the map. Then show Dominica's capital, Roseau, where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct an elementary school.
- Know that Dominica's name is pronounced with emphasis on the third syllable: daa-muh-NEE-kuh.
- Pronounce Keron as: KEH-ruhn.
- Pronounce Kitona as: kit-WANA.
- Pronounce Theophile as: THEO-fil.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Kitona: bit.ly/Kitona.
- Know that Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School is a real mission school where many children, including Kitona, come from families from other religious denominations. The word "Ebenezer" is composed of two Hebrew words: "eben," which means "stone," and "ezer," which means "help." The school's name reminds everyone that the Lord is their "Stone of Help."
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By Andrew McChesney



DOMINICA | September 21

Keya

Praying to Go to School

Do you like going to school? Keya loved her school so much on the island of Dominica that she prayed and prayed to go to school after a terrible hurricane.

Keya didn't always go to Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. For first grade, she was homeschooled by Mother. So, she was overjoyed when she heard that she would enter second grade in a real school.

"I'm going to a real school!" she exclaimed with joy.

Keya woke up very early on the first day of classes. She could barely contain her excitement, and she was grinning from ear to ear.

Nothing changed after that. Every day, she woke up, excited to go to school.

When summer came, she couldn't wait to return to school to start third grade in the fall. When she finished third grade, she couldn't wait to start fourth grade. She loved her school!

But something bad happened just a few days before school opened for fourth grade. A huge hurricane roared over the tiny island.

The fierce winds destroyed streets. The fierce winds damaged bridges. The fierce winds ruined buildings. The fierce winds ripped the roof right off Keya's school. Without a roof, water flooded the school, and desks and chairs were ruined. The school wasn't safe for children, and it couldn't open for classes. Making matters worse, no one knew when the school would be repaired.

Keya was very sad. She prayed, "Heavenly Father, You know all our problems, and we need a new school. Please allow us to get a new school."

She prayed every night. Her classmates also prayed. The school's teachers prayed.

Six weeks passed. Keya grew tired of sitting at home. She couldn't go out because it wasn't safe. Workers were trying to repair the streets, bridges, and buildings ruined by the hurricane. It seemed like everyone on the island was stuck at home.

Keya kept praying, "Heavenly Father, You know all our problems, and we need a new school. Please allow us to get a new school."

Then, one afternoon, Father told Keya, "You can go to school."



The public school had agreed to allow the children from the Adventist school to meet in its classrooms in the afternoons.

Keya was so happy! She would finally be able to leave the house. She would finally be able to see her friends again. She didn't wait to go to bed to sleep to thank God.

"Thank You, God! Thank You, God!" she prayed.

On the first day at the borrowed school, Keya's friends ran over to hug her. It was so nice!

The children studied at the public school for six months. Then the roof was finally repaired at the Adventist school, and they could move back. Keya was so happy!

Today, Keya has a new prayer. Like her, many children want to study at the Adventist school, but there isn't enough room for them all. She is praying for God to help the school move to a bigger building.

She is praying, "Dear Heavenly Father, I pray that You will give us funds for a new school building. I thank You for everything that You give to us. In Jesus' name, Amen." 🌍

Keya knows that God hears her prayers, just like He did after the terrible hurricane. Her father, who is an architect, has designed a bigger school building, and part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help cover the cost of constructing it in Dominica's capital, Roseau. Thank you for planning a generous offering next week.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

The Caribbean Sea around Dominica is home to many whales and dolphins, including sperm whales, spinner dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins, and bottlenose dolphins.

Story Tips

- Show Dominica on the map. Then show Dominica's capital, Roseau, where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct an elementary school.
- Know that Dominica's name is pronounced with emphasis on the third syllable: daa-muh-NEE-kuh.
- Pronounce Keya as: KEY-ya.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Keya: bit.ly/Keya.
- Challenge the children to pray like Keya and expect God to hear. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask, and it will be given to you" (NKJV).
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- 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: IWillGo2020.org.



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13th SABBATH | September 28

Jerry

Paper Prayer Requests

Jerry hasn't said a word since he arrived on the first day of school.

Dressed in festive white, pink, black, and gray colors, he sits silently on a table in the third-grade classroom of a Seventh-day Adventist school on the island of Dominica.

Jerry usually only gets off the table when someone prays.

When teacher prays, she holds him for a minute or two.

When a third-grade boy prays, he holds him.

When a third-grade girl prays, she holds him.

When a visitor comes to the classroom and prays, the visitor holds him.

You've probably guessed that Jerry isn't a normal boy. Jerry is a square cookie box wrapped in bright wrapping paper. Even though he can't say a word, he is filled with many important words written on pieces of paper.

Each of those papers contains a silent prayer request.

It all started on the first day of class. Teacher carried the wrapped-up box into the school and showed it to the children.

"This is a time capsule," she said.

Then she passed out yellow and green pieces of paper.

"On your paper, write your name and something that you would like to pray about this school term," she said.

After the children finished writing, the papers were placed in the box, and the box was sealed. Teacher said the class would open the box at the end of the school year to see how God had answered their prayers.

Then 9-year-old Zyane raised his hand.

"Can we name the time capsule?" he asked.

When the teacher nodded her head, he exclaimed, "Jerry, the time capsule!"

All the children burst into applause and cheered.

Zyane was the first person to pick up Jerry and pray over the box.

"Dear God, thank You for Jerry," he said.

As the weeks and months passed, other children also took turns holding Jerry and praying.

"Help us to achieve our goals," one prayed.

"Make our wishes come true," prayed another.



Kahmar, left, said God answered his prayer by giving him time with his father. Zyane, right, named the time capsule Jerry.

When guests like the school principal, pastors, and church leaders visited the classroom, the children asked them to hold the box and pray.

The children wondered if God would answer their prayers. They didn't have to wait until the end of the school year to find out.

Halfway through the school year, 8-year-old Sarah waved her hand in the air.

"Miss! Miss! I have something to say," she said.

"What is it?" Teacher asked.

Sarah said God had answered the prayer request that she had written on a piece of paper inside of Jerry.

"I want to thank God because I wrote on my paper that I wanted to be able to read, and my reading has improved," she said. "I'm reading better."

Then a number of little hands shot up into the air in the classroom. More children had stories of God answering their prayers.

Eight-year-old Amber said that she had prayed to get straight A's, and she was getting straight A's.

"I'm going to keep praying," she said.

Eight-year-old Kahmar said that he had prayed to see his father. He hadn't seen his father since he was 3 because he lived on

Story Tips

- Show the location of Dominica on the map. Then show Dominica's capital, Roseau, where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct an elementary school.
- Know that Dominica's name is pronounced with emphasis on the third syllable: daa-muh-NEE-kuh.
- Know that the photo features Jerry with Teacher Antonia and, from the right, Amber, Zyane, Sarah, and Kahmar.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Teacher Antonia: bit.ly/Teacher-Antonia.
- Know that the word "Ebenezer" is composed of two Hebrew words: "eben," which means "stone," and "ezer," or "help." The name of the Ebenezer school reminds everyone that the Lord is their "Stone of Help."
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-American Division: bit.ly/iad-2024.
- 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: IWillGo2020.org.

another island. But then Father surprised him by showing up on a recent weekend.

"I was so surprised," Kahmar said. "I even cried."

The two went fishing together. They visited the beach and went kayaking. On a hike, Kahmar saw something brown, like a



Sarah, left, wanted to read better, and God answered her prayer. Amber, right, got straight A's after praying for them.

stick, on the trail. When he ran over to look, he saw that it was the tail of an iguana! It had been a wonderful weekend with Father.

When the children's praises ended, Teacher bowed her head and offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

"As Jesus said, 'All things are possible to him who believes,'" she said.

She was reciting from Mark 9:23.

Jerry is only a box. He can't speak. But God heard the silent prayer requests tucked inside of him. The third-grade class is eagerly waiting for the end of the school year to find out which other prayer requests God is going to answer. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath

Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help six projects in the Inter-American 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 countries in the Inter-American Division — Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, and Mexico — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can download a mission map with the projects on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq.

Offering will help Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, where the children are praying for a new and larger building. A bigger school will allow more children to learn about the God who answers prayers. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering also will help open two centers of influence for at-risk children in Colombia, a center of influence for at-risk children in Costa Rica, and two centers of influence to reach upper-class people in Mexico. Thank you for your generous offering today.

By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will support three projects in the North American Division:

- Center of influence for Alaska Natives, Bethel, Alaska, U.S.A.
- Mission outreach for 2025 General Conference Session, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.
- Urban life center and church plant, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Color The Flag



COLOMBIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the large stripe at the top yellow. Color the middle stripe blue. Color the bottom stripe red.

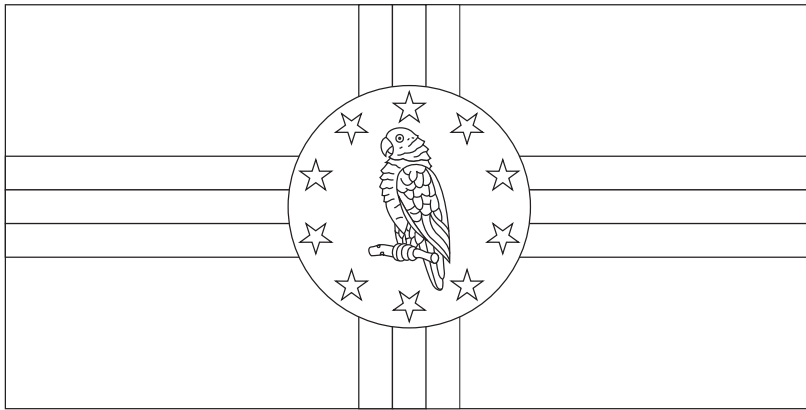


COSTA RICA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top and bottom stripes blue. Color the wide middle stripe red. Leave the rest white.

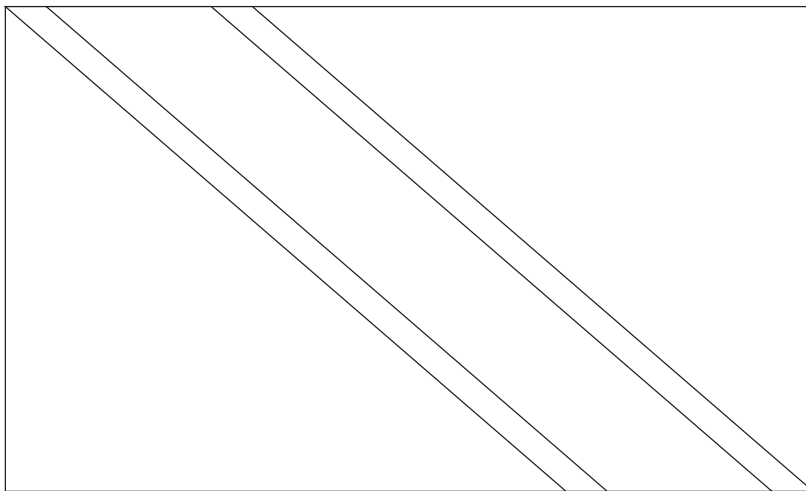
Color The Flag



DOMINICA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the four corners green. Starting at the top, color the stripes going across the flag yellow, black, and white. Starting at the left, color the stripes going up and down yellow, black, and white. Color the circle in the middle red and the stars green. Color the parrot's head and stomach blue. Color its wings and legs green. Color the branch yellow. Leave its eyes, beak, and feet white.



TRINIDAD

DIRECTIONS:

Color the middle stripe black but leave the narrow stripes on either side white. Color the rest of the flag red.

Make a Craft

HANDPRINT PARROTS

All the countries we are featuring from the Inter-American Division in this issue are home to many species of parrots.

To make a colorful paper parrot for yourself:

YOU WILL NEED:

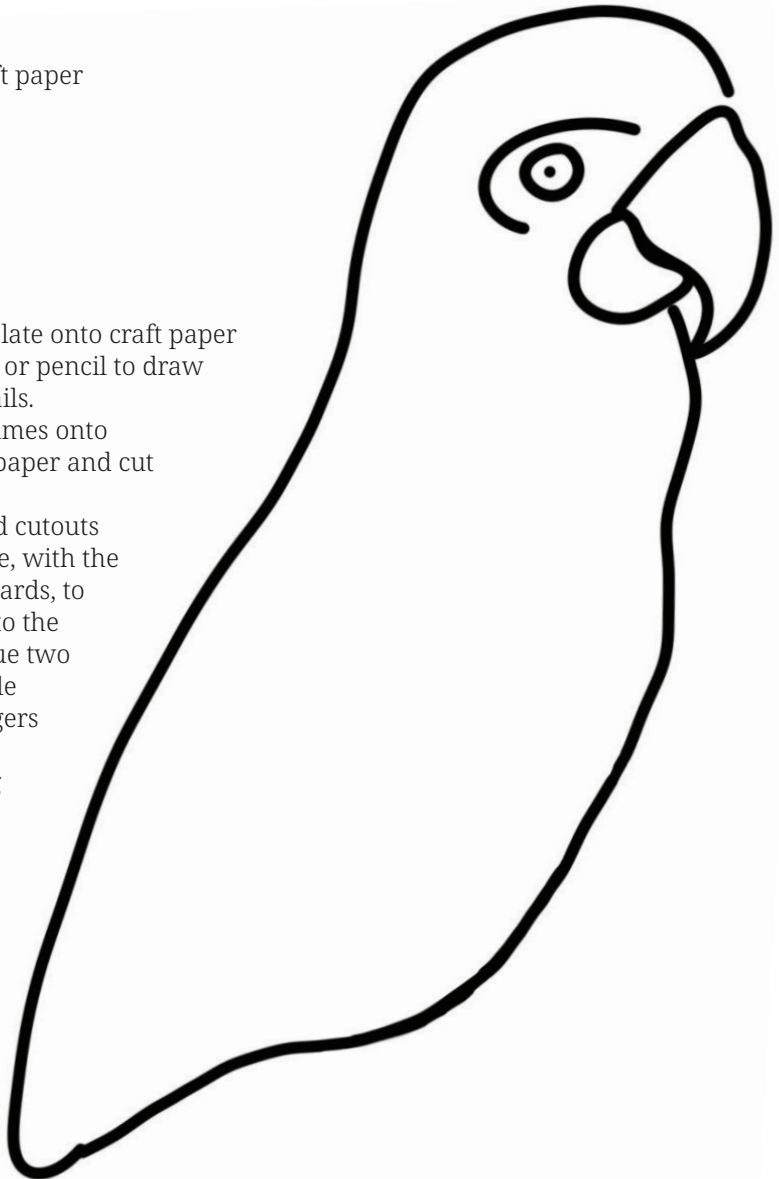
- Different colors of craft paper
- A pen or pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- This parrot template

INSTRUCTIONS:

Trace the parrot template onto craft paper and cut it out. Use a pen or pencil to draw in the eye and beak details.

Trace your hand six times onto different colors of craft paper and cut them out.

Glue three of the hand cutouts together in a vertical line, with the fingers pointing downwards, to make the tail. Glue it onto the bottom of the parrot. Glue two more hand cutouts a little further up the body, fingers pointing toward the tail and slightly overlapping it. Glue one more hand cutout a little above and overlapping, but pointing towards the back of the parrot for its wing.



Let's Cook!

COLOMBIA

WATERMELON POPSICLES (PALETAS DE SANDIA O PATILLA)

INGREDIENTS:

10 cups fresh watermelon chunks (seeds removed)
2 tablespoons water
1 can sweetened condensed milk
Popsicle molds or small cups and wooden popsicle sticks

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a blender, combine the watermelon and water and blend just until the watermelon has broken down. Add the condensed milk and blend until smooth.

Pour the mixture into the molds. If using cups, you'll need to insert wooden popsicle sticks.

Freeze for about four hours, or until firm.



BigStockPhoto.com

Let's Play a Game!

THE CARIBBEAN DANDY SHANDY

Dandy Shandy is a ball game played in the Caribbean. It is similar to dodge ball, consisting of three or more players.

The game should be played outdoors in an open area, preferably on a grass field, but can be played indoors with a very soft ball.

Two pitchers stand on either end and throw the ball, trying to hit the players

who are standing in the middle. The middle players have to run, duck, and jump to dodge the ball.

Traditionally, the game is played during lunchbreaks at school, and the “ball” is a paper juice box stuffed full of paper or other juice boxes, and the four corners rounded off. It made quite a hard ball, so there was extra incentive to dodge it!

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free *Mission Spotlight* video, featuring video reports from around the Inter-American 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

Colombia: government website	www.gov.co
Smarttraveller	bit.ly/SmartTrav_Colombia
Colombia Travel	bit.ly/ColTrav
Costa Rica: government website	bit.ly/CR_Embassy
US News & World Report	bit.ly/USNWR_CR
Rough Guide	bit.ly/RG_CostaRica
Dominica: government website	bit.ly/DominicaGov
Discover Dominica	bit.ly/Discover_Dominica
National Geographic	bit.ly/NatGeo_Dominica
Trinidad: government website	bit.ly/TrinidadGovt
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Trinidad
Visit Trinidad	bit.ly/Visit_Trinidad

Seventh-day Adventist

Inter-American Division	bit.ly/SDA-IAD
Caribbean Union Conference	bit.ly/IAD_CUC
North Colombian Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_NCUC
South Caribbean Conference	bit.ly/SDA_SCC
South-Central Costa Rica Conference	bit.ly/IAD_SCCRC
University of the Southern Caribbean (Trinidad)	bit.ly/IAD_USC

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 28. 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 Inter-American Division. On September 21, 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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children's MISSION

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Emily Harding Layout Editor

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Ricky Oliveras Video Producer
Caleb Haakenson Video Producer
Earley Simon Project Manager

Web site: AdventistMission.org

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INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
División	1	0	140	0
Atlantic Caribbean	85	5	33,130	516,000
Belize	102	36	487,744	431,000
Caribbean	636	93	248,616	3,873,000
Central Mexican	255	158	89,061	47,847,462
Chiapas Mexican	1,433	1,837	278,276	6,383,667
Cuban	348	152	38,303	11,175,000
Dominican	949	518	339,165	10,594,000
Dutch Caribbean	39	5	10,119	282,000
East Venezuela	572	178	181,799	13,100,269
El Salvador	808	195	193,002	6,526,000
French Antilles-Guiana	151	22	30,183	1,074,000
Guatemala	1,054	259	200,227	18,441,000
Haitian	656	558	488,581	11,541,000
Honduras	476	230	79,174	9,444,000
Inter-Oceanic Mexican	1,846	1,428	209,912	22,111,301
Jamaica	699	32	329,718	2,816,000
North Colombian	1,039	537	136,319	23,072,374
North Mexican	726	384	135,804	45,668,962
Panama	391	236	97,309	4,375,000
Puerto Rican	312	8	33,412	2,828,000
South Central American	546	319	75,416	11,822,000
South Colombian	774	323	159,517	27,869,626
Southeast Mexican	613	609	85,544	6,748,608
West Venezuela	683	286	172,983	15,965,731
TOTALS	15,194	8,408	3,694,454	304,506,000

PROJECTS

- Center of influence to reach upper class, Xalapa, Mexico
- Center of influence to reach upper class, Oaxaca, Mexico
- Center of influence for troubled children, Limón province, Costa Rica
- Center of influence for troubled children, Buenaventura, Colombia
- Center of influence for troubled children, Puerto Tejada, Colombia
- Ebenezer Elementary School, Roseau, Dominica