Dear Friends,

This quarter we feature the South Pacific Division, which includes Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the Pacific south of the equator including Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and others.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter focuses on reaching the people in islands through three proven methods: providing medical clinics in isolated regions, audio Bibles and Bible lessons for adults and children on MP3 players (commonly called “God pods”), and 15,000 Bibles in either English or pidgin (the trade language of the island nations) for children, who often are the only members of their families who can read well and who will share God’s Word with their parents and extended families.

Thank you for your support of mission!
What's the Mission Offering?

Sharing God’s love around the world is like a vehicle. It needs fuel to propel it. Our mission offerings are the fuel that propels almost every aspect of outreach. Without that fuel, our best efforts are hampered.

MORE
Four church plants organize in the Netherlands

Since the year 2000, the Adventist Church in the Netherlands has made church planting a priority and started 23 new groups of believers. The plants are supported by teams of church members and monitored by a minister, usually the pastor of their “mother” church.

SUPPORT MISSION ONLINE

Not everyone is able to give their offering in Sabbath School on Thirteenth Sabbath, denying them the opportunity to support the quarterly projects. But now they can. Adventist Mission is accepting Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings as well as the general mission offering online at giving.adventistmission.org. Church members can also give through their local church's AdventistGiving.org page.

Sneak Peek at Next Quarter

For a quick overview of the South American Division and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects for next quarter, click here.

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please Click here to unsubscribe.
YOUR MISSION OFFERINGS AT WORK

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Going up! The new library at Zambia Adventist University (now Rusangu University) will soon become a reality, thanks to your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago. The university, established in 2002, has 2,800 students enrolled as full-time or part-time students. Many are government workers seeking to upgrade their qualifications.

Know someone who would like to receive Tools & Tips for Sabbath School? Forward this email.
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What Is the Mission Offering?

The Adventist Church is built on mission. Our commission comes from Christ, who told us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” Mark 16:15, NIV. Sharing God’s love around the world is like a vehicle. It needs fuel to propel it. Our mission offerings are the fuel that propels almost every aspect of outreach. Without that fuel, our best efforts are hampered.

The church is united by its call to support mission. But few of us know exactly what the mission offering does, where it comes from, or where it goes. Our offerings support frontline evangelism in unentered countries as well as in teeming cities. They help build and sustain schools, establish churches, and help produce literature for distribution in hundreds of languages. In short, our mission offerings do everything our tithes can’t do.

In addition, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering allows us to give to specific projects that grow the church in tangible ways. One of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings in 1912 helped develop the River Plate Academy and school of theology in Argentina. Today the River Plate campus houses a university in which 2,500 students are enrolled as well as elementary and secondary schools enrolling 1,000 students. Our offerings have been instrumental in growing institutions such as these around the world.

2012 Special Offerings

July 14  Mission Appeal
September 1  Fall Mission Appeal
September 29  13th Sabbath Offering
November 3  Annual Sacrifice Offering
December 22  13th Sabbath Offering

2013 Special Offerings

March 30  13th Sabbath Offering
April 13  Spring Mission Appeal
June 29  13th Sabbath Offering
July 13  Mission Appeal
September 8  Fall Mission Appeal
September 28  13th Sabbath Offering
November 10  Annual Sacrifice Offering
December 21  13th Sabbath Offering

2014 Special Offerings

March 29  13th Sabbath Offering
April 12  Spring Mission Appeal
June 28  13th Sabbath Offering
July 12  Mission Appeal
September 13  Fall Mission Appeal
September 27  13th Sabbath Offering
November 8  Annual Sacrifice Offering
December 20  13th Sabbath Offering
Four church plants in The Netherlands Union Conference (NUC) were recently organized into recognized Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Since the year 2000, NUC has made church planting a priority and started 23 new groups of believers. The plants are supported by teams of church members and monitored by a minister, usually the pastor of their “mother” church.

These four new church plants predominantly reach the postmodern, post-Christian culture of the Netherlands. Pastor Wim Altink, NUC president, congratulates the four new Adventist centers of faith. Together with Pastor Rudy Dingjan, NUC staff member for church growth, he will lead out in the inauguration feasts of Student Church in Utrecht, Het Middelpunt in Purmerend, X-preszo in Rotterdam East, and Het Kompas in Rotterdam South. The Netherlands Union has 5,375 members worshipping now in 58 churches and 13 church plants.

A Goodwill Meal

Egypt has fewer than 750 Adventists among a population of more than 80 million people. The vast majority of Egyptians are Muslims. During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, observant Muslims fast during the day and break their fast with an evening meal after sunset. In a gesture of goodwill, the Adventist Church hosted an evening meal during Ramadan for members of the Muslim community.

More than 20 guests attended the meal, including government assistant ministers, a general, a police colonel, representatives from two political
parties, leaders of an Egyptian human rights organization, and journalists. After the meal the guests expressed appreciation and goodwill toward the Adventist Church. Some indicated that they had been unaware of Seventh-day Adventists before the occasion.

Egypt Field president Llewellyn Edwards spoke to the guests, expressing how living among Muslims had changed his understanding of Muslims from one of fear created by Western media to one of friendship and hospitality. “Muslims are people to be loved,” he said.

Once again your tithes and offerings have helped to build a bridge of understanding between Adventists and Muslims.
Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. More than 164 million people live in this division, of which almost 2.6 million are Seventh-day Adventists. About one person out of every 63 is a Seventh-day Adventist.

The Challenges

The three countries featured this quarter represent the broad spectrum of challenges facing the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

Madagascar is an island nation lying off the eastern coast of the continent of Africa. It has a population of about 20 million and an Adventist membership of about 127,050, or one Adventist for every 157 people. The church operates schools, medical clinics, orphanages, and other outreach programs. Almost half the population of Madagascar are Christians, and an equal number follow traditional Malagasy beliefs that include honoring dead ancestors. Close family ties make changing one’s religion difficult in this culture.

Namibia is a sparsely populated country lying along the southwestern coast of Africa. About one person out of every 120 is an Adventist. About 85 percent of the population is Black Africans, a significant number of whom continue to speak their traditional languages. While a majority of the population follow basic Christian beliefs, significant numbers of tribal people continue to follow their traditional beliefs. One of these groups, the Himba, is the focus of part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter.

South Africa, occupying the southernmost portion of the African continent is the most developed country in Africa. Black Africans comprise about three quarters of South Africa’s population while Whites, coloreds (mixed race), and Asians (mostly Indians) comprise the remaining one quarter. While English and Afrikaans are the most widely spoken languages, a significant percentage of the population speaks one or more of at least 11 African languages. While most South Africans claim to be Christians, just one out of every 513 are Seventh-day Adventists.

Yours for the kingdom,

Charlotte Ishkanian
Editor, Mission

Opportunities

This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide:

- MP3 players containing Bible stories for the Himba and Herero people of northern Namibia
- a classroom block for Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa
- a multipurpose building for Zuiker Adventist University in Madagascar
- an orphanage for girls in Antananarivo, Madagascar
- a classroom block for a school in northwestern Madagascar
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: a worship center for children in Fagavonana, South Africa.