



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2024 • QUARTER 2 • EURO-ASIA DIVISION



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On the Cover: Lera was born in Uzbekistan with a hole in her heart. Today, she has a scar on her chest that reminds her that God saved her life through an operation. See story, Page 18.

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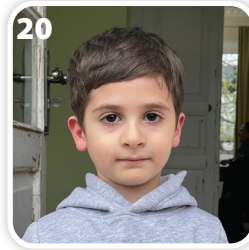
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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Euro-Asia Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in the countries of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The region is home to nearly 292 million people, but only 59,522 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 4,902 people.

Reaching so many people with the precious proclamation of Jesus' soon coming is a huge challenge for the church members who live in this vast territory that crosses 11 time zones. Jesus' Great Commission of Matthew 28:18–20 can only be accomplished with divine help. As part of that effort, the Euro-Asia Division has chosen five projects in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Uzbekistan to receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. The projects represent the length and depth

of the division, with a center of influence for youth in Belarus in the east, a spiritual and social center in Russia in the far north, two projects in Georgia and Armenia in the deep south, and the first Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in Uzbekistan in the east. The projects are listed in the sidebar.

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. For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, try a free photo bank such as pixabay.com or unsplash.com. You could show the photos to the children on your computer or mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Euro-Asia Division at bit.ly/esd-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. A printable mission-bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

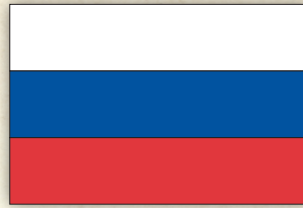
If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, please let me know at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will establish five projects in the Euro-Asia Division:

- Center of influence for families, Yerevan, Armenia
- Center of influence for youth, Minsk, Belarus
- Health center, Tskaltubo, Georgia
- Spiritual and social center, Salekhard, Russia
- Elementary school, Tashkent, Uzbekistan



RUSSIA | April 6

You Are Special

Sasha

Late one night, 9-year-old Sasha slipped into her house in a city located right on the Arctic Circle. She had been playing outside in the cold snow, and now she wanted to warm up. It also was time for bed.

As Sasha entered the door, she heard someone speak to her.

Sasha didn't hear the voice with her ears; she heard it in her head, almost like a thought.

"You are special," said a warm and kind voice.

How was Sasha special? Was it because she lived in a Far North region of Russia called Yamal, which means "End of the Land." Her home did seem to be at the end of the land, perched at the top of the world.

Or was Sasha special because she was a member of an indigenous group of people called the Khanty. Only about 31,000 Khanty people live in the whole world, and she was one of them.

Sasha wasn't sure why she was special. But she liked being told that she was special. Joy filled her heart.

But then Sasha began to have problems. At school, other children were mean to her. At home, her much older sister, Olga, started drinking. Father and Mother also began to drink. It wasn't fun being at home or at school.

Sasha wondered if she really was special. She wondered why people live.

On television, she heard a woman say that people live to have children.

Sasha didn't believe it, so she asked Mother.

"Why do people live?" she said.

Mother said the same thing as the woman on the television.

"We live to have children," she said.

Sasha still didn't believe it.

Several years passed, and Sasha kept wondering why people live.

Then she made a new friend named Alyona. Alyona was everything that Sasha wanted to be. Alyona was happy. She had a radiant smile that lit up the room.

Sasha wanted to be happy like Alyona.

She was surprised to learn that Alyona was happy even though she hadn't had a happy life. She didn't know her parents. She had lived in an orphanage for many years. Then she had been adopted by a Seventh-day Adventist family.

Alyona introduced Sasha to her family.

Sasha liked the family. They welcomed her like their own daughter. They loved her, and they taught her about God.

Through the family, Sasha learned that people live because God created them. She realized that she is special because God created her.

Today, Sasha is happier than ever before. She knows why she is special. She is a child of God.

"I live for God," she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a special center in Sasha's hometown of Salekhard in the Russian Far North. Children and adults will be able to learn at the center about the God who sees every person as special. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

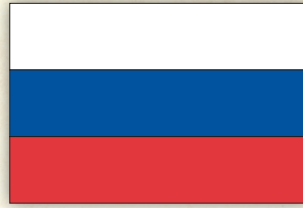
- Show the children the location of Russia on the map. Then show Sasha's hometown of Salekhard (pronounced as: SAL-e-hard), the only city in the world that is located on the Arctic Circle.
- Know that Sasha is wearing a traditional outfit in the photo.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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.



MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist missionary arrived in the Russian Empire in 1886. His name was L.R. Conradi. He was arrested after baptizing a Russian convert. The Russian Orthodox Church didn't want people moving to other churches, so Conradi was accused of the spread of "Jewish" heresy, converting Russian people to another faith, and public baptisms.

Only 47.4 percent of Russians are Christians (41 percent Russian Orthodox/6.4 percent other Christian), 38.2 percent have no religion, 6.5 percent are Muslim, and about 8 percent are "other."



RUSSIA | April 13

Daniil

Praying Problems Away

Eleven-year-old Daniil was struggling to do his fifth-grade math homework on the home computer in the Russian Far North. He was able to solve all of the math problems ... except one. It was a very hard problem.

Daniil tried to solve the problem one way. It didn't work. He tried to solve the problem another way. It didn't work. For 10 minutes, Daniil tried to solve the problem. His eyes grew sad. His head hung down. He didn't want to sit at the computer anymore.

Getting up, he went into the living room. Father was sitting on the couch, typing an email to someone on his cell phone. "Father, I can't solve a math problem," he said.

Father followed the boy to the computer. Daniil showed him the math problem. Father looked closely. He twisted his mouth. He also could not solve it. But he had an idea.

"Let's pray," he said. "God can solve this problem. He definitely will help you."

Father bowed his head and closed his eyes. Daniil bowed his head and closed his eyes.

"Dear God," Father prayed, "thank You for being with us. You know that Daniil needs to

solve this math problem. We can't figure it out, but You can. Please help us. Amen."

Father raised his head and opened his eyes. Daniil raised his head and opened his eyes. Then he looked at the math problem on the computer screen. "Oh!" he exclaimed. "Maybe we should try this."

He typed something and, just like that, the math problem was solved.

"See, I told you that God would help," Father said, smiling.

Daniil's smile was brighter than the sun. He was so happy! "Hooray!" he exclaimed.

A day or two later, Daniil was struggling with a math problem again. He tried to solve the problem one way. It didn't work. He tried to solve it another way. It didn't work. For 10 minutes, Daniil tried. Finally, he sadly got up and went to the kitchen. Father was peeling potatoes as he helped Mother make borscht (beet soup) for supper. "Father, I can't solve a math problem," Daniil said.

Father followed the boy to the computer, and Daniil showed him the problem. It was too difficult for Father to solve.

“Let’s pray,” he said. “God can solve this problem. He definitely will help you again.”

Father bowed his head and closed his eyes.

Daniil bowed his head and closed his eyes.

“Dear God, thank You for being with us,” Father prayed. “You know that Daniil needs to solve this math problem. We can’t figure it out, but You can. Please help us. Amen.”

Father raised his head and opened his eyes. Daniil raised his head and opened his eyes. Then he looked at the math problem on the computer screen. He still couldn’t solve it.

Father returned to the kitchen and resumed peeling potatoes.

Five minutes later, Daniil ran to the kitchen.

“Father, I solved the problem!” he exclaimed.

Father was so happy.

“God wants to show you that He can solve any problem, not just in math but in every area of your life,” he said.

Daniil knew that it was true. God could help him in anything. All he needed to do was ask. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a special center where children and adults can learn about the God who hears prayers in Daniil’s hometown of Salekhard in the Russian Far North. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Russia on the map. Then show Daniil’s hometown of Salekhard (pronounced as: SAL-e-hard), the only city in the world that is located on the Arctic Circle.
- Know that Daniil studies at home on his computer. He attends the only online Seventh-day Adventist school in Russia. The school is based in Nizhny Novgorod, located 1,015 miles (1,635 km) away.
- Read more about Daniil and his prayer life next week.
- Download other photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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.

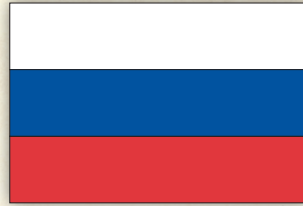


AMAZING
COUNTRY

Russian matryoshka dolls are brightly colored figures, each a little smaller than the last, that fit inside of each other.



BigStockPhoto.com



RUSSIA | April 20

Daniil

Praying for Protection

Daniil was very excited. He was going sledding with friends. He loved sledding!

Daniil watched happily as Father loaded his sled into the trunk of the car on a Sunday afternoon. The sled wasn't just any sled.

Daniil had a purple snow racer. A snow racer is a sled with a raised seat, a steering wheel, and runners that look like skis on the sides.

After the sled was safely in the trunk, Daniil hopped into the car. Father, Mother, and four of Daniil's friends also got into the car.

Before leaving, Father bowed his head and prayed, "Dear God, please bless us and keep us safe. Amen."

After 20 minutes, they arrived at the hill where they would go sledding.

Waiting for them were more of Daniil's friends who had arrived with Uncle Sergei in another car.

Then Daniil and his friends hit the slopes. It was fun! Daniil liked flying down the hill on his sled. He liked playing with his friends. He was happy!

After two hours, the children were still

having fun, but the adults were cold and tired. They said it was time to go home.

The children got into the two cars. But Daniil's mother wasn't quite ready to leave. First, she wanted to take off her wet boots and put on some dry shoes.

Uncle Sergei, however, didn't want to wait. "We'll go home now and meet you there," he said. "That way we can boil some water and have hot tea waiting for you when you arrive."

Everyone liked the idea of hot tea after the cold slopes.

It didn't take Mother long to change her shoes. Five minutes later, she was ready to go.

Father prayed, "Dear God, please bless us and keep us safe. Amen."

The car traveled just a short distance when a scary sight greeted their eyes. Ahead of them was a car accident. One car had crashed into a snowbank on the roadside. Another car had smashed into the trees.

"Is that Uncle Sergei's car?" Father asked as

he reached the car in the snowbank.

Father got out of the car just as Uncle Sergei got out of his car in the snowbank.

“Are you OK?” Father asked.

He was fine. Everyone in the car was fine.

Father called for help, and soon emergency workers arrived.

The emergency workers had to cut open the car that had crashed into the trees in order to rescue the driver who was trapped inside.

It turned out that the other driver was drunk and had been driving too fast in the wrong lane. He had almost hit Uncle Sergei’s car head-on. But Uncle Sergei had swerved off the road and into the snowbank at the last minute. Then the drunk driver lost control of his car and crashed into the trees.

Daniil realized that it was a miracle that no one was hurt. If he had been traveling in the car behind Uncle Sergei, the drunk driver would have hit him when Uncle Sergei swerved into the snowbank. But a big accident had been avoided when Mother stopped to change her shoes.

Daniil and his friends hugged each other with relief. Then they prayed.

“Dear God, thank You that everyone is alive and healthy,” Father said.

These days, Daniil always prays before traveling. “I know God hears prayers,” Daniil said. “I have seen with my own eyes how He answers.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a special center

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Russia on the map. Then show Daniil’s hometown of Salekhard (pronounced as: SAL-e-hard), the only city in the world that is located on the Arctic Circle. The city was founded in 1595 and has a population of about 50,000.
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- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
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By Andrew McChesney

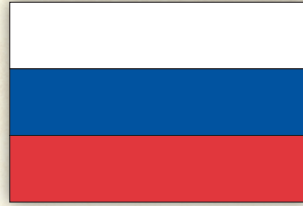


AMAZING
COUNTRY

At the end of summer, there are three folk holidays — known as the Spas — that celebrate honey and the harvest of the apple and nut crops.



BigStockPhoto.com



RUSSIA | April 27

Ivan

Out of This World

Ivan loved to write, so he was excited when he heard about a big contest to write stories. All children from across Russia were invited to write a story about outer space. The authors of the best stories would get to meet a real-life cosmonaut.

Ivan thought it would be great to meet someone who had actually flown to space. He also thought it would be fun to write a story about space.

Ivan sat down and wrote a make-believe story about cosmonauts who traveled to an asteroid far from Earth. The story filled three whole pages, and he called it, “No Way Back.”

Ivan gave the story to Father to read. Father found some misspelled words and other mistakes, and he helped Ivan make corrections. Then Ivan prayed for God to bless the story and sent it off to the contest.

A month passed. Two months passed. Three months passed. Ivan waited and waited to see if he had won the contest.

One day, he received a letter that he had won! His story had been chosen as the best

in his age group. Ivan was so happy. He remembered that he had prayed, and he knew that God had heard his prayer.

Ivan was invited to go to a seashore town to meet a cosmonaut at a special prize ceremony. He was so excited!

But then he saw that the prize ceremony was scheduled for the Sabbath. He knew that he could not go. He wanted to keep the Sabbath.

Now Ivan was deeply disappointed. Hadn’t God answered his prayer and helped him write a story that won first place?

He decided to pray about it. He knew that God hears prayers.

“Why did this happen?” he prayed. “Couldn’t the prize ceremony have been on Sunday or Monday instead of Sabbath so I could go?”

On the Sabbath when Ivan was supposed to meet the cosmonaut at the prize ceremony, he was meeting with God at church instead.

Now it so happened that the cosmonaut saw that one of the winners of the story-

writing contest had missed the prize ceremony. He wanted to meet the boy who was such a good storyteller. He decided to go to the boy's hometown of Zaosky.

Ivan was very surprised when the cosmonaut showed up a short time later at his Seventh-day Adventist school. All the children gathered in the auditorium. The cosmonaut stood on the stage, and the principal called for Ivan to come to the front. All the children clapped and cheered loudly for Ivan as he walked to the stage.

The cosmonaut congratulated a beaming Ivan.

"We need more creative people like you in the world," he said.

Then he gave Ivan a collection of books about space, two hats, and several badges just like cosmonauts wear on their spacesuits in outer space.

Ivan couldn't have been happier. God had heard his prayers. Not only did he get to meet a real-life cosmonaut, but all the children at the Adventist school got to meet a real cosmonaut because he had been faithful to God and kept the Sabbath holy. God had rewarded him because he had been faithful to God and met with Him in church on Sabbath instead of meeting with the cosmonaut at the prize ceremony.

When Ivan was alone, he thanked God for His love. "Thank You that I am alive and that I have talent from You," he said. 🌍

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Russia on the map. Then show Ivan's hometown of Zaosky (pronounced as: za-OK-ski), located about 60 miles (100 km) south of Moscow.
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- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
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three years ago went to build a new school building for Ivan's Seventh-day Adventist school in Zaosky, Russia. Thank you for your offering that will allow more children to about the God who hears prayers.

By Andrew McChesney

BigStockPhoto.com



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Famous Russians include Marc Chagall, modernist painter; Anton Chekhov, playwright; Mikhail Baryshnikov, ballet dancer; Pyotr Tchaikovsky, composer; Garry Kasparov, chess player; and Mikhail Gorbachev, politician.



Anton
Chekhov



RUSSIA | May 4

Kamila

Santa Claus or Jesus

Eleven-year-old Kamila walked up to a woman on the street. She extended her hand, which was holding a juicy, ripe orange.

“Would you like an orange?” she asked.

The woman was surprised.

“Thank you!” she said.

Then she looked more closely at Kamila and saw that she was not alone. Six other children were with her, and they were accompanied by two adults. All were bundled up in warm clothing. It was a cold Sabbath afternoon in Lipetsk, Russia.

The woman held the orange in her hand, and she was pleased. The Christmas and New Year’s holidays were only a few days away, and Russians like to celebrate with oranges. “Where are you from?” she asked.

“We are from the Pathfinder club in Zaoksky,” Kamila said.

The woman looked confused.

“What are Pathfinders?” she said.

“It’s a Christian organization for children,” Kamila said. “We study the Bible and earn honors by doing various activities.”

The woman looked impressed. She saw

that one of the Pathfinders was carrying a sign reading, “Who do you believe in: Santa Claus, Father Frost, or Jesus?” Father Frost is a Russian version of Santa Claus.

“Who do you believe in?” Kamila asked.

The woman smiled. “I believe in Jesus,” she said. “The other two are make-believe.”

“Me, too!” Kamila said, smiling back.

As the woman turned to go, Kamila called out, “Merry Christmas! God bless you!”

Then another Pathfinder pulled an orange from a bag held by a Pathfinder leader. He held it out to a man who was passing by.

“Would you like an orange?” he asked.

The reaction was the same.

“Yes, thank you!” the surprised man said.

“Where are you from?”

“We are from the Pathfinder club in Zaoksky,” the boy said.

“What are Pathfinders?” he said.

After the boy had explained, he pointed to the sign reading, “Who do you believe in: Santa Claus, Father Frost, or Jesus?”

The man laughed. “Of course, I believe in Santa Claus,” he said. But the Pathfinders

could see that he was joking. As the man walked away, it was clear that he was thinking about Jesus. The boy called out, “Merry Christmas! God bless you!”

So it was that Kamila and the other children gave away orange after orange on the snowy Sabbath afternoon. Everyone seemed to ask: Where are you from, and what are Pathfinders? One woman said she believed in Jesus because He had healed her from cancer. Another woman asked the Pathfinders to pray for her health. A grandfather asked for help entering a telephone number on his cellphone. Everyone was surprised and happy to receive oranges.

When the last orange had been given away, Kamila and the other children returned to the Seventh-day Adventist church where they were meeting for a weekend Bible experience. Kamila had memorized 48 Bible verses to participate in the Bible experience, which was called “Memorizing Pearls” and was held every year just before Christmas and New Year’s.

But now Kamila decided that the Bible experience wasn’t the most amazing thing about the weekend. The most amazing thing about the weekend was giving away oranges and telling people about Jesus.

“At the end of the day, I felt very satisfied and close to God,” Kamila said. 🌍

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago went to build a new

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Russia on the map. Then show Kamila’s hometown of Zaoksky (pronounced as: za-OK-ski), located about 60 miles (100 km) south of Moscow, and the city of Lipetsk, located 240 miles (380 km) to the southeast.
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school building for Kamila’s Seventh-day Adventist school in Zaoksky, Russia. Thank you for supporting the spread of the gospel throughout the world with your offerings.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

In 1987, the government gave the Seventh-day Adventist Church two acres (0.8 hectares) in the settlement of Zaoksky to build a school for pastors. A school building had burned down on the property previously, and the local villagers were using it as a garbage dump. Church members cleaned it up, and the next year Zaoksky opened as the first Protestant school for pastors in Russian history.



BELARUS | May 11

Ales

Two Ears to Hear

How many ears do you have? Two! How many ears do you need? That's a trickier question. Of course, a boy or girl can hear with only one ear.

Ales was born in Belarus with hearing in only one ear. Ales was born a month early. He didn't weigh as much as other babies. When he was three months old, Mother took him to a doctor for tests. During those tests, the doctor found that Ales could only hear with one ear.

Mother was shocked. She worked with children who were deaf. She loved them just as much as she loved children who could hear. But she never imagined that her own child would not be able to hear with two ears.

She thought that the doctor must have made a mistake. Because she worked with children who couldn't hear, she also knew how to run hearing tests. So, she ran a hearing test on little Ales. The tests showed that Ales really couldn't hear with both ears.

But Mother still didn't want to believe it. She took Ales to a special hospital for

children with hearing difficulties. The doctor ran his own hearing tests. Mother watched the tests on a monitor. She saw deep inside Ales' ears. One ear looked normal, and the other one did not. Mother saw that nothing could be done to help. She began to cry.

The doctor, however, didn't want to see her tears. "Why are you crying?" he said, gruffly. "Your son can hear with one ear, and that's enough."

Back at home, Mother cried and cried. Then she talked to God.

"Why did You allow this to happen?" she said.

After a while, she turned on some music on her phone. A beautiful hymn started playing. It was called, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Mother had heard the hymn many times since she was a little girl. But for the first time she understood that God really was near to her. It felt good to know that God was near. But Mother still didn't want to believe that Ales would never hear with one ear. She knew God could hear with both ears. She kept on talking to God. "Listen to me," she

said. “You can do anything. If You gave life to my son with only one ear, You could heal him and give him life with two ears.”

Three months passed, and Father had a birthday. Father didn’t want a cake for his birthday. He didn’t want any presents. He only wanted Ales to hear with both ears.

“Our son will hear,” he said to Mother. “God will do this as a gift for my birthday.”

He and Mother prayed and took Ales to the hospital for another hearing test. There was nowhere to sit while they waited. Mother carried Ales in her arms, and he felt so heavy. He weighed only 5 ½ pounds (2 ½ kilograms), but to Mother he felt like 25 pounds (10 kilograms).

Finally, the doctor called them in. When he finished the test, he said, “Your son can hear perfectly with both ears.”

Mother couldn’t believe her ears. She was so happy. “This is a miracle of God!” she exclaimed.

Indeed, it was a miracle. Mother had seen inside Ales’ ears on the monitor three months earlier. She had seen that no doctor could help Ales. But the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, had healed her boy, and now he could hear with both ears.

Father wept with joy at the news. He was so happy that God had given him such a wonderful gift on his birthday.

Today, Ales is 6 years old, and he can hear perfectly well with both ears. He uses his ears to learn Bible verses. He uses his ears to learn songs. He would like to use his ears to

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Belarus on the map. Then show the location of Minsk, the capital, where part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will open a center of influence for youth.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- This mission story illustrates Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

learn to become a doctor and to help other boys and girls. He knows that his hearing is a gift from God. 🌐

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a special center where youth can learn about the God who hears prayers in Belarus, the country where Ales lives. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

In the 1930s, the government didn’t want people to worship God, and Adventist pastors and church members in Belarus were arrested and sent to the Far North, where it was very cold and living was very hard.

Before World War II, the number of Protestants in Belarus was low compared with other Christians. In 1917, there were 32 Protestant communities, but by the 1990s there were more than 350 Protestant communities.



UZBEKISTAN | May 18

Making Friends

Dasha

Ten-year-old Dasha was talking with friends after school in Uzbekistan when she saw a little girl walk past. Something wasn't right. The girl was wearing a blue skirt. But the skirt wasn't hanging down properly. Part of the skirt was sticking up.

Dasha called out, "Hey, girl!"

But the girl didn't hear and kept on walking.

Dasha ran up behind the girl and pulled down the ruffled part of the skirt. The girl was surprised. She didn't know what was happening. But then she realized that Dasha had helped her by straightening out her skirt.

"Thank you!" she said.

A few days later, Dasha saw the little girl again after school. This time she was standing with her mother.

The girl turned to her mother and said, "That's the girl!" Then she looked at Dasha and said, "Hi! Come meet my mother."

Dasha went over.

"Nastya told me that she had met a nice girl at school," Nastya's mother said. "She said that I should meet you. It's nice to meet you!"

Dasha also thought it was nice to meet

Nastya and her mother. She smiled shyly. As she turned to go home, Nastya's mother gave her a big hug. Then she gave her an oatmeal cookie and a kiss on the head. Dasha liked the cookie and the hug and the kiss.

After that, Dasha ran to Nastya's mother every time she saw her. Nastya's mother always hugged her and asked, "How's your day going?" Dasha became friends with Nastya and her mother.

After a while, Nastya's mother asked, "Who do you live with?"

"I live with Grandmother," Dasha said.

Nastya's mother invited Dasha and her grandmother to come over for a visit. But Grandmother couldn't find a time that suited her. Before Dasha knew it, the school year ended, and she didn't go to school anymore. So, she didn't see Nastya or her mother anymore. She couldn't call them because she didn't know their telephone number. Grandmother sent her to spend the summer with her mother in another city.

Dasha missed Grandmother, and they spoke by telephone every day. One day, Grandmother said that Nastya's mother had come over to visit. Nastya's mother began visiting Grandmother nearly every day.

“She’s a good woman,” Grandmother said.

After school started, Nastya’s mother invited Dasha and Grandmother to a delicious meal. Afterward, she invited them to come again. “Don’t only come for one special meal,” she said. “Come every Sabbath.”

Dasha and Grandma started going to Nastya’s home every Sabbath. Dasha learned that Nastya and her family were Seventh-day Adventists, and they worshipped every Sabbath in their home. Nastya’s parents had moved to the city to teach people about Jesus, and they hoped to open an Adventist church. Dasha and Grandmother were the first visitors to their house church.

Then Grandmother got sick and couldn’t go to Nastya’s house church on Sabbaths. So, Dasha went by herself. As she went, she began to read the Bible every day. She began to pray every day, and she noticed that God heard her prayers. Once she really, really wanted a dress, and she prayed and prayed for it. Then she got the dress!

Today, Dasha is 16 years old, and she goes to the house church every Sabbath. The house church has grown to include other boys and girls. It even has its own Pathfinder club with 10 children.

Dasha loves being a Pathfinder, she loves worshipping God on Sabbath, and she loves Nastya and her family. She wants to give her heart to Jesus in baptism. 🌐

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open the first Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in Uzbekistan. Dasha met Nastya and her mother at public

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Uzbekistan on the map. Then show Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan and the future location of a Seventh-day Adventist elementary school, one of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Know that Dasha is wearing the dress that she received in answer to prayer in the photo.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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, which does not teach about God. Your offering will help open an Adventist school where children can learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney

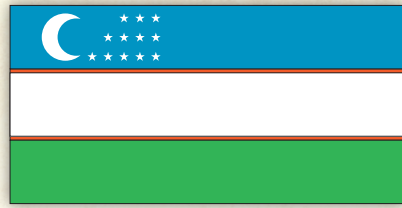


MISSION
RECORD

The first Adventists appeared in Uzbekistan in 1906.

Seventh-day Adventists in Uzbekistan had to worship in secret in the 1930s because the government didn’t want people to believe in God.

In Uzbekistan, almost everyone is Muslim. Only about 2.2 percent of people are Christian.



UZBEKISTAN | May 23

Lera

Hole in the Heart

Lera was born in Uzbekistan with a hole in her heart. When she was 4, the doctor said she needed to undergo an operation to repair the hole, or she would die.

But a heart operation cost a lot of money. Lera's parents didn't have that kind of money. They didn't know what to do. Lera's grandmother, who lived with them, also didn't have that kind of money. But she knew what to do. She prayed. "Dear God," she prayed, "please let my little Lera live."

Then another doctor heard about Lera's heart. She was a Christian. She knew that Lera's family couldn't afford the operation. She did some research and learned that some kind people were paying for eight children from Uzbekistan to get free heart operations in South Korea every year. She prayed for Lera to be accepted into the program.

After the prayer, Mother came to Lera.

"You will go to South Korea," she said. "They will feed you ice cream there. Would you like to go?"

Lera liked ice cream. "Yes, I'll go," she said.

Grandmother wanted to go, too. She had enough money to buy her own airplane ticket. But the kind people in South Korea said she couldn't go. "Only the child," they said.

Lera boarded an airplane with seven other children and flew to South Korea. It was scary seeing new doctors in South Korea. The doctors seemed a little scared to see Lera. She was the smallest and the youngest of all the children. They were surprised that she had been chosen for the operation.

"She is so small," one doctor said.

"How did they allow her to come here?" said another.

But they promised to do their best to help.

Two days after Lera arrived, she met a kind woman doctor who asked, "What do you like most of all to eat?"

That was an easy question.

"Ice cream!" Lera exclaimed.

The doctor took the little girl to the store, and Lera chose green pistachio ice cream to eat. The doctor also bought ice cream for all the other children.

Lera was the last of the eight children to undergo a heart operation. When the doctors finished, they declared the operation a success. They had repaired the hole.

Two weeks later, Lera flew home. She took with her a suitcase packed with pencils, notebooks, and albums with photos of her time in South Korea. It was a gift from the doctors.

Back in Uzbekistan, Lera recovered quickly. She didn't get sick or have any other complications. She was a healthy little girl.

Father was happy. Mother was happy. But Grandmother perhaps was the most happy.

Every evening, Grandma called her to come and pray together before bedtime.

The old woman and the little girl knelt down by the bed. Grandmother prayed first. "Thank You for being near to my granddaughter and helping her go to South Korea," she said. "Thank You for giving her life."

Then Lera prayed, "God, thank You for everything. Amen."

Today, Lera is a strong, healthy girl. She is a Pathfinder who sings special music and plays the violin in church. The only reminder of the hole in her heart is a scar on her chest from the operation.

"The scar reminds me that God saved my life," she said. "If I hadn't had the operation, I would have died. God blessed me." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open the first Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in Uzbekistan, where Lera lives. Thank you for planning a

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Uzbekistan on the map. Then show South Korea, where Lera flew at the age of 4 for a heart operation. Also show Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan and the future location of the country's first Seventh-day Adventist elementary school, one of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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.

generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney

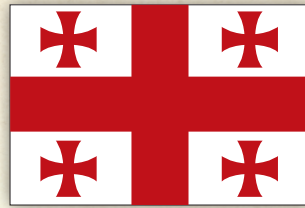


AMAZING
COUNTRY

Uzbekistan mines 80 tons
of gold every year.

BigStockPhoto.com





GEORGIA | June 1

In God's Hands

Khachik

Do you know the proper way to sit in a chair?

Khachik knew the proper way to sit in his highchair.

Khachik was a very small boy in the country of Georgia. But he knew that his bottom belonged in the seat of his highchair when he ate breakfast or lunch or supper. Mother always placed him in the seat of the highchair when it was time for breakfast, lunch, or supper.

But one day, Khachik decided to try something new.

Mother placed him in the seat of the highchair for a yummy supper of macaroni and sour cream. Khachik liked macaroni and sour cream very much.

But he thought that it might taste just a little better if he ate it while sitting on the arm of the highchair rather than in the seat as always.

Khachik wiggled out of the seat and took a seat on the arm. He liked his new freedom. His legs were no longer trapped below the small table holding his supper on the highchair.

Khachik also liked the new view. He

looked around the room and he took a bite of macaroni and sour cream.

Suddenly, he fell backward.

Mother saw Khachik tumble from the arm of the highchair. She wasn't too far away from him in the kitchen, but she was too far away to catch him.

Khachik landed on the floor and hit the back of his head hard.

Mother screamed and ran over to the little boy.

For a few minutes, Khachik didn't move at all. His eyes were open and gazing vacantly to one side.

Mother wrapped the little boy in her arms and prayed.

"Help him, please," she said. "God, give me back my son. I will never let this happen again."

Time seemed to stand still.

WHAAAAAAAAA!

Suddenly, Khachik began to cry.

When Mother heard the cry, it reminded her of how Khachik had cried when he was born.

It was like he had been born again.

Khachik looked Mother. His eyes were normal. He could see her perfectly. He didn't remember what had happened. He only knew that his head hurt.

But Mother remembered what had happened. It had been a frightening experience.

She thanked God.

“Thank You, God, for waking my son up and giving him life,” she prayed.

Mother called the ambulance.

But when the ambulance arrived, the paramedics couldn't find anything wrong with Khachik. Even though he had hit his head hard, he was fine.

“Let's take him to the hospital just to make sure,” a paramedic said.

At the hospital, the doctor gave Khachik a clean bill of health. He was a healthy little boy with a slightly sore head.

After that day, Mother gained a new understanding of God. She understood that everyone's life — Khachik's life, her life, everyone's life — is in God's hands.

She is happy about that — and so is Khachik.

“My life is in God's hands,” he said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a health center in Georgia, where Khachik lives. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney

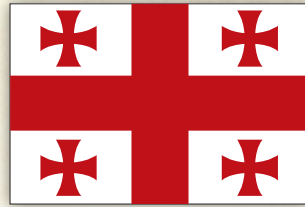
Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Georgia on the map. Then show Tskaltubo, the future location of a health center that is one of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Pronounce Khachik as: kha-CHIK.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Khachik at: bit.ly/Khachik-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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.



Dr. Vagram Pampaian, an American medical doctor with an Armenian background, arrived in Tbilisi with his wife and brother in 1904 and was the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary in Georgia.

Pastor Albert Ozols, a young man of Latvian origin and a medical doctor, arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1907. In 1914, he was arrested and sent to Siberia. On his way to exile, he treated patients among the prisoners.



GEORGIA | June 8

Alex

Gift from God

When Lana was 2 years old, Mother asked her what she wanted for New Year's.

This was a normal question in the country of Georgia. In many countries, parents ask little girls and boys what they want for Christmas. But in Georgia, where Lana lived, parents ask their children what they want for New Year's. Georgian children eagerly wait for New Year's to open wrapped gifts underneath fir trees in their homes.

"What do you want for New Year's?" Mother asked Lana.

"I want a little brother," Lana said.

Mother was surprised. Lana was the only child in the family. Mother wouldn't mind giving her a little brother for New Year's. But Mother didn't think that she was able to have any more child.

Lana didn't get a little brother that New Year's.

When Lana was 3 years old, Mother asked her again what she wanted for New Year's.

"I want a little brother," Lana said.

Mother was surprised. She thought that Lana had forgotten her wish from the previous year. Mother wouldn't mind giving her a little brother for New Year's. But Mother didn't think that she was able to have any more child.

Lana didn't get a little brother that New Year's.

When Lana was 4, Mother asked her again what she wanted for New Year's. Lana hadn't changed her mind. "I want a little brother," she said.

When she was 5, Mother asked her again. This time she said, "I want a doll."

And just like that, she forget her wish for a little brother. She asked instead for toys. But Mother didn't forget.

When Lana was 9, Mother became pregnant. She couldn't believe it! She hadn't thought that she would be able to have any more children, and now she was carrying a baby boy. Immediately, she thought that the baby must be a gift from God. She hadn't thought about God in a long time, and now

she couldn't wait to give birth.

When Lana learned that she would have a little brother, she immediately remembered her New Year's wish from when she was small.

"Can we name him Alex?" she asked.

"Alex?" Mother said. "OK, if that is what you want. Let's name him Alex."

Mother brought little Alex home from the hospital on Lana's 10th birthday. Right away, Lana wanted to hold him in her arms. She was so happy. Mother hadn't had time to bake a cake or buy a birthday gift. But this was better than a cake or a birthday gift. This was even better than a New Year's gift. She had a little brother!

"A little brother is better than cake," she said.

Alex really is a gift from God. Before he was born, his family hadn't thought much about God. Then a neighbor saw Alex and told Mother about a Seventh-day Adventist children's center where the boy could play and learn about God. Mother began taking Alex to the children's center. She and other mothers studied the Bible with a church leader while their children played. Today, Alex's family goes to church on Sabbath, and Lana is a Pathfinder.

Mother is so happy that Alex was born. Not only did the family gain a son, but it also gained a Father in heaven. Because of Alex, the whole family now knows and loves God.

"I am a gift from God," Alex said. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Georgia on the map. Then show Tskaltubo, the future location of a health center that is one of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Alex at: bit.ly/Alex-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults." For more information about the plan, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a health center in Georgia, where Alex lives. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Walnuts are an important part of Georgian cuisine.

BigStockPhoto.com





ARMENIA | June 15

Yakov

Who Knows the Future?

Grandmother Roza worried about the future in Armenia. What would happen tomorrow? Would she be healthy? Would her family be safe? Would she have many grandchildren?

She decided to find out. She had heard about a fortune-teller who promised to tell the future in exchange for money.

The fortune-teller lived some way from Grandmother Roza's house. It was too far to walk. There was no bus. So, Grandmother Roza hailed a taxi on the street.

"Where are you going?" the taxi driver asked.

Grandmother Roza said she wanted to visit a fortune-teller, and she gave the address.

"Why do you want to go to a fortune-teller?" the taxi driver said. "Only God knows the future. It would be better to talk to Him."

Grandmother Roza was curious to know more about God. Christians had lived in Armenia for hundreds of years. In fact, Armenia was the first country in the world to officially accept Christianity in 301 A.D. But now it was 1964, and Christianity was illegal. Armenia was part of the Soviet Union, which

taught that there is no God. People who spoke about God and read Bibles could go to jail.

"My name is Garnik," the taxi driver said. "Instead of going to the fortune-teller, come to my house. I will tell you about God."

Grandmother Roza went home with Garnik. He opened his Bible and taught her about the God who created the heavens and the earth. Then he invited her to come back on Sabbath. There was no Seventh-day Adventist church in town, but a group of Adventists met in his home on Sabbath.

Grandmother Roza began to worship with Garnik and other Adventists every Sabbath. As she worshipped, she learned that God forbids people from going to fortune-tellers. The Bible says that no one "may practice black magic, or call on the evil spirits for aid, or be a fortune-teller, or be a serpent charmer, medium, or wizard, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone doing these things is an object of horror and disgust to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12, TLB).

Grandmother Roza also learned that the

taxi driver was correct when he said that only God knows the future. The Bible says, “So why are you trying to find out the future by consulting witches and mediums? Don’t listen to their whisperings and mutterings. Can the living find out the future from the dead? Why not ask your God?” (Isaiah 8:19).

Grandmother Roza gave her heart to God and was baptized. After that, she no longer worried about the future. Instead, she talked to God about the future. She asked God to keep her healthy. She asked God to keep her family safe. She asked God to save her grandchildren and the rest of the family.

After a long time, one of her grandsons, Yakov, started to worship with her on Sabbaths at the taxi driver’s house church. Then one of her four daughters was baptized. Grandmother Roza kept praying for her family. She prayed for a future where they would all believe in God and be saved.

Then the Soviet Union collapsed, and Armenia became an independent country where people could believe in God freely.

Sadly, Grandmother Roza died a year later, when she was 68. But God continued to answer her prayers. Her family gathered for her funeral and listened as two Adventists, who also had loved her, spoke about the love of God. Their hearts were touched, and they began to read the Bible.

A year later, nine members of Grandmother Roza’s family were baptized, including her only son, several more daughters, and a number of grandchildren, including Yakov, who had gone to church with her at the taxi driver’s house.

Yakov began holding Sabbath worship meetings in his house. As more family members attended on Sabbaths and got baptized, the house got too small. Yakov had to rent a building for Sabbath meetings.

When Grandmother Roza prayed for a good future for her family, she never could have guessed that God would answer by planting an Adventist church filled with her family in her town. Today, about 30 people worship God at the church every Sabbath.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Armenia on the map. Then show Gavar, where Yakov lives, and Yerevan, the country’s capital and future location of a center of influence for families, one of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Know that Yakov means Jacob and James in English.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Yakov at: bit.ly/Yakov-ESD
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Yakov, who has helped build Adventist churches across Armenia, can’t wait to see Grandmother Roza at Jesus’ Second Coming.

“She will be surprised to see the fruit of her prayers,” he said. “A whole church was planted!” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence that will help families know about God in Armenia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney



ARMENIA | June 22

Syuzanna

Spring, School, and Sabbath

Syuzanna had a sad look on her face when she came home from school.

“Mother, we have a spring talent show at school,” she said.

Mother was surprised. Usually, Syuzanna loved school activities, and she loved to participate in them.

The mother and daughter sat down to talk on the couch in their home in Armenia.

Syuzanna said Teacher had announced at school that the children would participate in a special two-hour program to celebrate the arrival of spring after the cold winter. Teacher had told Syuzanna that she would recite a poem by an Armenian poet and sing an Armenian song with the school choir.

“Teacher said all the children have to take part,” Syuzanna said. “But the talent show will be on Sabbath.”

Now Mother understood Syuzanna’s disappointment. She held the little girl close.

“Let’s pray about this,” she said. “Everything is in God’s hands. The most important thing for us is to show our love for God by keeping His law.”

Syuzanna knew that God said in the fourth commandment, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work” (Exodus 20:8–10, NKJV). School and school programs were work.

Mother prayed, “Dear Father, we thank You that You have given Syuzanna an opportunity to participate in the spring talent show and for the talents that You have given her. We want to keep Your law and be faithful to You. We ask that You allow us to participate in the show if it is Your will. Amen.”

Syuzanna was calm after the prayer. She went to her bedroom to do her homework.

That evening, Mom called Teacher and explained that Syuzanna could not participate in the spring program because of the Sabbath.

“You know that we are Christians, and that the Sabbath is an important day for us,” she said. “We observe God’s commandments, and it is written in the commandments to keep the Sabbath.”

She asked Teacher if she could change the talent show to another day of the week.

“We cannot change the date,” Teacher said. “There is no other day that is convenient for us, and we have already made all the necessary arrangements.”

There didn’t seem to be any way out.

But the very next morning, the date of the talent show was changed.

Mother learned about it first when she visited an online chatroom for parents and teachers from the school. A mother wrote in the chatroom that when she took her child to school that morning, Teacher had told her that the talent show had been moved from Sabbath to Friday.

Immediately, Mother called Teacher to thank her.

“Thank you for changing the talent show to another day of the week,” she said.

“I did this only for you,” Teacher said.

Mother couldn’t believe her ears.

“Thank you, thank you!” she cried.

When Syuzanna returned home from school, Mother told her the good news.

The little girl was so happy! Her smile was as bright as the sun. She understood that it was important to keep God’s law. She also understood that prayer is very, very powerful.

She could participate in the spring talent show after all. 🌐

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence where families can learn about the God who

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Armenia on the map. Then show Yerevan, the country’s capital and future location of a center of influence for families, one of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Syuzanna at: bit.ly/Syuzanna-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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answers prayers in Armenia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on June 29.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

Armenia was the first country to make Christianity the official religion.

In the 1930s, the government didn’t want people worshipping God, so they destroyed many Adventist churches, and people had to worship in secret.



13th SABBATH | June 29

Daniel

Daniel's Day

How does a future missionary spend his day? Father and Mother have a plan for 4-year-old Daniel in Armenia.

Daniel has no question about what to do when he wakes up in the morning. The first thing he does is make his bed and wash his face. Then he reads a chapter in his children's Bible. He reads very slowly, but he knows how to read. After reading, he does physical exercises for 5–10 minutes. After that, he joins Father and Mother in the living room for family worship.

The other morning, Daniel found Father working on his laptop on the couch. Father put away his work when Mother came in from the kitchen. The three knelt down to pray, and Daniel prayed first.

"Thank You for giving me a new day and for waking me up," he said. "Help me to be a good boy. Help me to love You."

Sitting on the couch, Mother opened the children's Bible and read the story of Jesus' crucifixion. Daniel was surprised that Roman soldiers hammered nails into Jesus'

hands and feet on the cross. He knew that the nails must have hurt a lot, and he felt very sad for Jesus.

After worship, Daniel went to the kitchen table for breakfast. "Jesus, bless this food. Amen," he prayed.

Then he enjoyed his favorite breakfast: buckwheat porridge, bread baked by Mother, vanilla yogurt, and a banana.

Mother said it was important to walk after eating, so Daniel quickly brushed his teeth and went out for a 20-minute walk with her. As they walked, Daniel chatted about his favorite subject: dogs.

When Daniel finished talking about dogs, Mother spoke about one of her favorite subjects: good manners.

"If a boy or girl makes you upset, what should you do?" she said.

Daniel wasn't sure.

"You need to pray to God to help you forgive the boy or girl," Mother said.

Daniel nodded. If he felt upset, he would pray to God.

Back at home, Daniel played with cars while Mother prepared lunch. Then he enjoyed a lunch of *vareniki*, dumplings stuffed with mashed potatoes.

After brushing his teeth, he played with building blocks and other toys until suppertime. Then he put away his toys and ate supper. After brushing his teeth, he went with Mother to choir practice at the Seventh-day Adventist church. Daniel sang in a children's choir, and Mother was the choir director.

Back at home again, Daniel and Mother went to the refrigerator in the kitchen. They wanted to see a chart on the door. The chart was Daniel's check list of what to do every day of the week. Mother read from the list.

"Get up by 8 a.m.," she read. "Yes, you were up," she said, and made a check mark.

Daniel smiled.

"Make bed," Mother read. *Check.*

"Do workout." *Check.*

"Read the Bible." *Check.*

"Brush teeth." *Check.*

Other things on the list included good manners, sharing, not interrupting, picking up the bedroom, and asking forgiveness if necessary.

At the end of the list, Mother read, "Go to bed by 9:30 p.m."

"What time is it?" Mother asked.

Daniel looked a little worried until Mother looked at the clock and assured him that it wasn't past bedtime. *Check.*

Daniel, Mother, and Father prayed

together at evening worship, and then Daniel went to bed.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Armenia on the map. Then show Yerevan, the country's capital and future location of a center of influence for families, one of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Daniel at: bit.ly/Daniel-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Euro-Asia Division: bit.ly/esd-2024.
- 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.



Armenia is home to stork villages. Stork nests are set on top of poles throughout several areas of Armenia to provide resting places for storks that migrate to and from Africa every year.

BigStockPhoto.com



Father and Mother like the refrigerator check list because it helps Daniel to develop good habits. They want him to remember to spend time with God every day. They want him to be strong and healthy. They want him to love God and others by being kind, patient, and forgiving. The check-list is based on ideas from the Bible. Father and Mother hope that by teaching Daniel good habits today, he will become a brave missionary for God.

Daniel also likes the list. He especially likes it because it has a Sabbath surprise. As he drifted off to sleep that night, he eagerly thought about the soon-to-come Sabbath. After sundown on Friday, he would stand in front of the refrigerator as Father counted the check marks on the chart for the week. If he had enough, he would get a prize. He had already picked out his prize for the week. He would get a plush dog. 🐕

Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a center of influence where families can learn about God in Armenia. The offering will also help four other projects in the Euro-Asia Division: a center of influence for youth in Minsk, Belarus; a health center in Tskaltubo, Georgia; a spiritual and social center in Salekhard, Russia; and an elementary school in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Thank you for your

Before 13th Sabbath

- Send home a note to remind parents of the Thirteenth Sabbath program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 29. 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 five projects in the Euro-Asia Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn't need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. Alternatively, the children can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the countries in the Euro-Asia Division — Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Uzbekistan — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can download a mission map with the projects on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq.

generous offering that will help spread the gospel in the Euro-Asia Division.

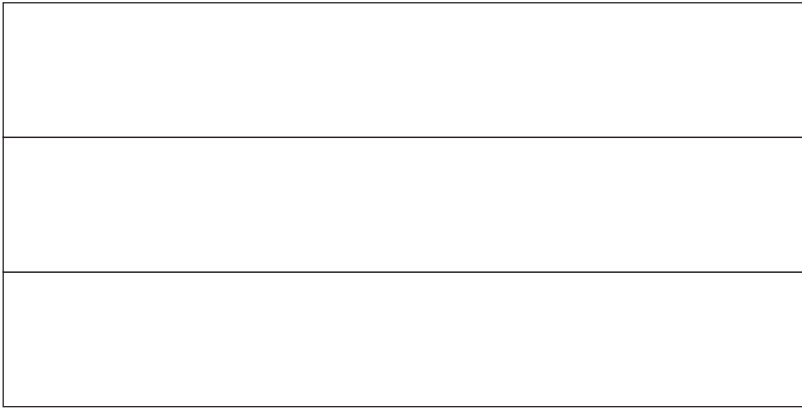
By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will support six projects in the Inter-American Division:

- Center of influence for troubled children, Buenaventura, Colombia
- Center of influence for troubled children, Puerto Tejada, Colombia
- Center of influence for troubled 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

Color The Flag



ARMENIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top third red, the middle third dark blue, and the bottom third light orange.

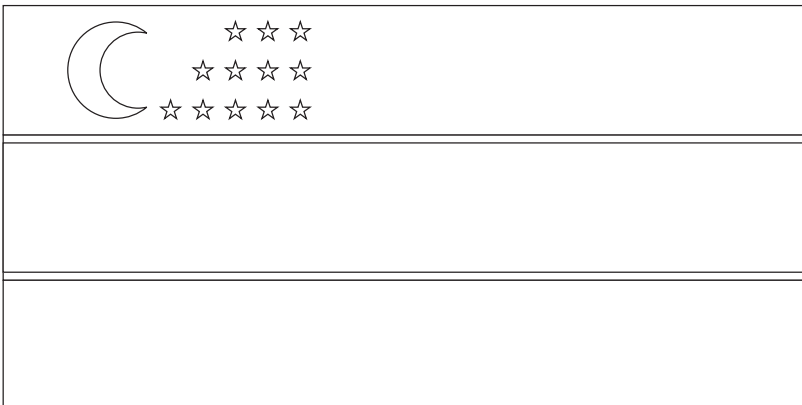


BELARUS

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top two-third red, and the bottom third green.

Fill in the dark areas of the pattern on the left in red.



UZBEKISTAN

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top third teal and leave the moon and stars white. Leave the middle third white. Color the bottom third green. Color the thin stripes above and below the white third red.

Uzbekistan Crafts

PAPERMAKING

Samarkand in Uzbekistan has one of the world's longest paper-making traditions. Thousand-year-old Persian manuscripts written on Samarkand paper survive to the present day.

SUPPLIES

- Toilet paper
- Empty plastic container (a water bottle would be perfect)
- Kitchen strainer
- Newspaper
- Plastic wrap or waxed paper
- Rolling pin
- Dry dish towel or sponge

INSTRUCTIONS

Cover a flat space with layers of newspaper.

Place 12 squares of toilet paper in the plastic container. Fill the container half full of water and close tightly. Shake the container vigorously until the mixture looks slushy and you can't see any large pieces of paper. Pour the pulp into the strainer, pressing it up the sides as much as possible to make a flat layer — not a lump in the bottom. Squeeze as much of the water out of the pulp as you can.

Turn over the strainer to let the pulp fall onto the layer of newspaper. Cover the pulp with a piece of plastic wrap or waxed paper and use the rolling pin to flatten it and squeeze out any excess water. Remove the plastic wrap or waxed paper and use the dish towel or sponge to absorb the water pressed out by the rolling pin. You may have to do this step several times. Once you've pressed out as much water as you can, let the paper to dry overnight, and you now have your own piece of handmade paper!



Counting From 1 to 10

ARMENIAN

WORD	SAY IT	WORD	SAY IT
One	mek	Six	vets
Two	yer'ku	Seven	yot
Three	ye'req	Eight	oot
Four	chors	Nine	'inneh
Five	hingue	Ten	tas

UZBEK

WORD	SAY IT	WORD	SAY IT
One	bir	Six	olti
Two	ikki	Seven	yetti
Three	uch	Eight	sakkiz
Four	to'rt	Nine	to'qqiz
Five	bish	Ten	o'n

RUSSIAN

WORD	SAY IT	WORD	SAY IT
One	odin	Six	shest
Two	dva	Seven	sem
Three	tri	Eight	vosem
Four	chetyre	Nine	devyat
Five	pyat	Ten	desyat

GEORGIAN

WORD	SAY IT	WORD	SAY IT
One	erti	Six	ekvsi
Two	ori	Seven	švidi
Three	sami	Eight	rva
Four	otkhi	Nine	tskhra
Five	khuti	Ten	ati

BELARUSSIAN

WORD	SAY IT	WORD	SAY IT
One	adzin	Six	shestz
Two	dva	Seven	syen
Three	tri	Eight	vosyem
Four	chatiri	Nine	dzyevyatz
Five	pyatzi	Ten	dzyesyatz

Let's Cook!

KHACHAPURI

(GEORGIAN CHEESE BREAD)

This soft, cheese-filled bread is the national dish of the country of Georgia.

INGREDIENTS

Dough

3 tablespoons (43 g) butter
1 cup (227 ml) milk
1 ½ teaspoons sugar
½ teaspoon coriander
1 ½ teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons instant yeast or active dry yeast
2 ¾ cups (330 g) flour (bread flour works best)

Filling

2 cups (227 g) mozzarella cheese or Muenster cheese, shredded
1/2 cup (113 g) ricotta cheese

INSTRUCTIONS

Dough

Heat the butter and milk together in a small saucepan or in the microwave until the butter melts. Put the sugar, coriander, and salt in a large bowl, and pour the hot milk over it, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Cool to lukewarm, about 100–110°F (38–43°C).

Stir in the yeast and flour, mixing until a shaggy dough forms. Cover and let rest for 10 minutes and then knead until smooth. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons flour if the dough is too sticky. Place the dough in a greased bowl, cover, and let rise for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, until it increases in size by at least one third.

Filling

Place all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and beat to combine.

Assembly

Line two baking sheets with parchment. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide it into four equal pieces. Roll each piece into an oval shape about 10–6" (25–15 cm). Cover and let rest for 15

½ cup (57 g) crumbled feta cheese
1 large egg
2 tablespoons flour
½ teaspoon salt
½ to 1 teaspoon black pepper (optional)
2 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh parsley
2 tablespoons finely chopped chives

Egg wash

1 large egg beaten with 1 teaspoon water

Garnish

4 large eggs, cold from the refrigerator
4 teaspoons butter

minutes. Spoon one quarter of the cheese mixture (4 oz/119 g) into the center of each and spread to within 1" (2.5 cm) of the edges.

Pull the dough's edges up around, but not over, the cheese, folding and twisting the ends to form a boat shape. Cover and let rise for 20 minutes, or until puffy but not doubled.

While the bread is rising, preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C) with two racks toward the center. Brush the dough with egg wash and bake for 15–20 minutes, until they feel set but not browned.

Remove from the oven and use the back of a spoon to make an indentation about 3 inches (7 cm) across in the filling of each khachapuri. Crack an egg into each, place a teaspoon of butter on top, and bake for an additional 8 to 10 minutes (for soft-set eggs), or 12 to 15 minutes (for firmer eggs).

Remove from the oven and serve warm. Garnish with additional fresh herbs, if desired.

Store any leftover khachapuri, well wrapped, in the refrigerator for up to five days.

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Euro-Asia Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

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

Armenia: government website	www.gov.am/en/
Armenia Travel	bit.ly/ArmeniaTravel
National Geographic	bit.ly/Armenia_NatGeo
Belarus: government website	bit.ly/BelarusGovt
Belarus Travel	bit.ly/BelarusTrav
World Travel Guide	bit.ly/WorldTravGuide
Georgia: government website	bit.ly/GeorgiaGovt
Georgia Travel	bit.ly/Georgia_Travel
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Georgia
Russia: government website	bit.ly/RussiaGovt
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Russia
WikiVoyage	bit.ly/WV_Russia
Uzbekistan: government website	www.gov.uz/en
Condé Nast	bit.ly/CN_Uzbekistan
National Geographic	bit.ly/NatGeo_Uzbekistan

Seventh-day Adventist

Euro-Asia Division	bit.ly/SDA_ESD
Armenian Field	bit.ly/SDA_ArmField
Belarus Union of Churches Conference	bit.ly/SDA_BUCC
West Russian Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_WRUC
Zaoksky Adventist University	bit.ly/SDA_ZAU

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 June 29. Remind the children and their parents 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 Euro-Asia Division. On June 22, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage the children and their parents 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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Russian Federation

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Belarus	66	28	3,706	9,318,000
Caucasus	133	59	7,352	27,298,762
East Russian	80	39	4,815	23,205,089
Far Eastern	51	18	1,995	6,289,645
Moldova	134	99	8,274	3,515,000
Southern	67	42	3,916	116,251,000
West Russian	371	292	26,702	97,304,504
ATTACHED FIELDS				
Armenian Field	19	11	820	2,965,000
Crimea Mission	25	6	1,604	1,901,000
Georgian Field	8	4	338	3,702,000
TOTALS	954	598	59,522	291,750,000

PROJECTS

- 1** Center of influence for youth, Minsk, Belarus
- 2** Health center, Tskaltubo, Georgia
- 3** Center of influence for families, Yerevan, Armenia
- 4** Spiritual and social center, Salekhard, Russia
- 5** Elementary school, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

