



# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2022 • **QUARTER 3** • SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION



# Contents

**On the Cover:** Gabriela Isabel Alarcon Avila, 29, wanted to become a famous singer in Bolivia. But now her desires have changed. She only wants to sing for God. Story, page 8.

## BOLIVIA

4 Christ Restores a Couple | July 2

6 Miracle in Pandemic | July 9

8 Song in My Heart | July 16

10 God Is in Control | July 23



## BRAZIL

12 Beautiful Rock | July 30

14 Praying for a New Church | Aug. 6

16 Sabbath Ultimatum | Aug. 13

18 Church Under Mango Tree | Aug. 20



20 From Critic to Disciple | Aug. 27



22 Swimsuit in Church | Sept. 3

24 Searching for Truth | Sept. 10

26 Depending on God Alone | Sept. 17

28 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath: Honoring Lord  
of Sabbath | Sept. 24



30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

31 Leader's Resources

32 Map

 = stories of special interest to teens

  
Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

© 2022 General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists • All rights reserved  
12501 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601  
1-800-648-5824 • AdventistMission.org

**Dear Sabbath School Leader,**

Andrew McChesney  
Editor



This quarter we feature the South American Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, with adjacent islands in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The region is home to 349,417,000 people, including 2,562,193 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 136 people, a slight increase from a ratio of one Adventist for 137 people three years ago.

This quarter's eight Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in two countries: Bolivia and Brazil. The plan is to establish four new churches in each of the two countries.

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, 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](http://pixabay.com) or [unsplash.com](http://unsplash.com).

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the South American Division at [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022). Follow us at [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](http://facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

You can download the PDF version of the youth and adult Mission magazine at [bit.ly/adultmission](http://bit.ly/adultmission) and the Children's Mission magazine at [bit.ly/childrensmision](http://bit.ly/childrensmision). Mission Spotlight videos are available at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight).

If I can be of assistance, contact me at [mchesneya@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mchesneya@gc.adventist.org).

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

## Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the South American Division to establish:

- New church, Cochabamba, Bolivia
- New church, El Alto, Bolivia
- New church, La Paz, Bolivia
- New church, Trinidad, Bolivia
- New church, Santos, Brazil
- New church, Maua, Brazil
- New church, Brodowski, Brazil
- New church, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

# Christ Restores a Couple

BOLIVIA | July 2

## Anabelle



On a Sunday, Anabelle tearfully fled her home and distraughtly wandered the streets of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Her marriage was in ruins, and there was no peace at home. Constant conflict with her husband was affecting their two daughters, and she couldn't take it anymore. Divorce seemed to be the only way out.

As Anabelle aimlessly walked up and down the streets, she suddenly remembered that she had heard somewhere that Seventh-day Adventists offer a program for spiritual healing. Her family belonged to another church, but at that moment she decided to seek help at the local Adventist church.

At the church, the pastor listened patiently as Anabelle, with tears of despair, spoke of her disappointment in marriage and described her many problems

at home. When she finished, he offered to pray for her and her family.

"Only Jesus can save your marriage," he said.

After praying, he promised to visit her home.

The next day, he arrived at the front door and offered to counsel the family. Anabelle's husband agreed to counseling, and Anabelle called their two daughters to join them. They began their first family counseling session with prayer.

"Dear God," Anabelle prayed, "please bring changes to our home."

At the pastor's instructions, the family opened their Bibles and began a Bible study.

Anabelle shed many tears during the first session. She felt powerless. She knew that she should surrender completely to God. But, as she listened to her husband speak, hot words flashed into her mind. It seemed like an impossible situation.

Later that week, the pastor returned to study the Bible and to provide more counseling. He prayed with the family and encouraged Anabelle and her husband to leave the past behind and move on. He advised them to be patient and tolerant.

“Dear God,” Anabelle prayed, “please bring changes to our home.”

When the family counseling sessions ended, one of the daughters declared that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus in baptism. The pastor invited the family to the Adventist church for Sabbath worship services. The whole family went, and the daughter joined the Pathfinder club. Later she also was baptized.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and the authorities imposed a strict quarantine for three months. When the quarantine was lifted, churches still were not allowed to reopen, and worship services continued online.

But amid COVID-19, God heard Anabelle’s prayers, and something happened at home. Both she and her husband changed a lot. Christ truly blessed their home. Eleven months after fleeing her home in despair, Anabelle was baptized together with her husband and their other daughter.

God has restored their home. Anabelle praises and thanks God for His love and mercy. She would like to encourage other families to depend on God through prayer.

“Nothing is impossible for Him,” she says. “Put God first, and do His will. God is faithful, and He is a safe haven for all families who trust in Him.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new church in Anabelle’s hometown of Cochabamba, Bolivia. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 24 that will help other families find spiritual healing and restored marriages.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know that Cochabamba is located in a valley at the foot of Mount Tunari and has a mild climate, allowing a variety of vegetables and fruits to be grown.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](https://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” The Thirteenth Sabbath project to establish a church in Cochabamba and three other cities in Bolivia illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” For more information: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- The first official missionaries to Bolivia, Eduardo and Flora Thomann, arrived in June 1907. They met people who had become interested in Adventism through reading books purchased from Juan S. Pereira, a former Presbyterian colporteur discharged for propagating Adventist doctrine as early as 1897. A week before the Thomanns left for Chile in July 1909, Ferdinand and Ana Stahl arrived and began medical work in La Paz. Later the Stahls opened medical work among indigenous peoples.
- Bolivia was the last of the countries of the South American Division in which Seventh-day Adventists established their work.



# Miracle in Pandemic

Guillermo

Bolivia went into lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

All churches were closed, and worship services and other church activities were prohibited for fear of spreading the virus.

Small groups of believers began to meet in homes in El Alto, the second-largest city in Bolivia.

Guillermo prayed earnestly. How could people worship amid a pandemic?

As Guillermo prayed, an idea formed in his mind. Why not leave the city and hold worship services in a deserted place?

With much prayer, and with the help of several church members, he decided to worship God on one of the many hills around the city. The group chose a hill that in the Aymara language is called “Waña Quta,” or “Dry Lake.” It is located at the foot of a snowy mountain.

Eight male church members showed up for the first Sabbath gathering.

The men were not discouraged, and they continued to meet every Sabbath. As they prayed and worshiped, people kept coming. After three months, the

group had grown to 100 people, including Adventists, Evangelicals, and members of other Christian denominations.

Cold, rain, and weariness did not discourage men and women, and young people and children, from making the mile-long (2-kilometer) hike up the hill. A single thought prevailed in their minds, “Let’s keep walking. God is with us.” They trusted in God with meditation, fasting, and prayer. Kneeling on the hill, they prayed with fervent joy to the Lord.

It was an enormous blessing to meet on the hill every Sabbath. Many people were seeking the Lord amid struggles with unemployment and illness. They left the hill with tears in their eyes and faith that God remained in control and would do great miracles in their lives. They encouraged one another with Philippians 4:19, which says, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (NKJV).

As the world slowed down because of the pandemic, the preaching of the



*A view of rolling hills in Bolivia.*

everlasting gospel did not stop. As a result of the hilltop miracle meetings during the pandemic, 13 people gave their lives to the Lord through baptism. Today, the faithful hilltop group has become a company of more than 50 members who meet every Sabbath in a rented hall. 🌐

Despite the pandemic, the gospel is spreading in El Alto, the second-largest city in Bolivia. But parts of El Alto still do not have an Adventist church. This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to establish a church in one of those neighborhoods. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 24 to support the establishment of this church and three others in Bolivia.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](https://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." The Thirteenth Sabbath project to establish a church in El Alto and three other cities in Bolivia illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Bolivia has the world's largest salt flat (Salar de Uyuni), which covers 4,086 square miles (10,582 square kilometers) and is 11,995 feet (3,656 meters) above sea level. It is 100 times larger than the famous Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, in the U.S. It contains 50–70% of the world's reserves of the element lithium.
- The national animals of Bolivia are the llama and the Andean condor.
- Spanish is the main official language of Bolivia, although there are also 36 official indigenous languages; the most commonly spoken are the Aymara, Guarani, and Quechua languages.

# Song in My Heart

BOLIVIA | July 16

Gabriela



Some famous singers became passionate about music in their childhood, but this was not the case with Gabriela. She grew up in La Paz, Bolivia, with a passion for Jesus.

From birth, her mother taught her about the love of Jesus.

She grew up knowing that the Ten Commandments, including the fourth commandment about the seventh-day Sabbath, reflected His character of love.

She understood the significance of tithe and offerings.

When she was 9 years old, she gave her heart to Jesus in baptism.

But as the years passed, she began to know about the delights of the world, and the door to those delights was music.

Gabriela liked to sing for fun on school vacations. Then she was invited to join a musical group, and she gladly agreed, thinking that she could start a musical career and become famous. By the age of

19, she was sure that singing was her life.

While studying at a university, Gabriela sang with several music groups. Sometimes she wondered whether she might be making a mistake, such as the time when she was involved in a terrible traffic accident and she was the only person injured. She finished her undergraduate studies with a degree in psychology.

Then she and several friends created a new musical group that met with instant success. The group performed at numerous events, and Gabriela enjoyed going to parties and spending money on luxurious items.

She liked singing and spending money. But when she wasn't singing or spending money, she felt empty inside. Life didn't seem to have any meaning.

Gabriela didn't stop going to the Adventist church completely. She was a Christian on some Sabbath mornings, but she returned to her other life after the worship services.

One Sabbath morning, she listened to the special music in the church and a desire formed in her heart to sing for God.

"I would like to sing in church," she thought. "My mother would be so proud of her daughter singing in church."

Soon Gabriela was attending church regularly, not only for the morning worship service but also for the afternoon program.

She started listening to Adventist singers. She realized that she wanted to leave the music of the world, but she struggled with a desire to become famous.

She prayed to God for help.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic shut everything down. Gabriela could no longer perform on the stage. Rather than despair, she felt an enormous sense of relief. Now it would be easier to cut all ties with the empty, meaningless part of her life.

She became close friends with the church pastor, and he invited her to Bible studies. She accepted happily. When she finished, she decided to rededicate her heart to God through rebaptism. She felt that God was giving her a new opportunity to live for Him.

Gabriela entered the waters of baptism less than a year into the pandemic. In a prayer at her baptism, she declared that everything she had belonged to God.

“I give my life, gifts, and talents to Your service,” she prayed.

After her baptism, she traded the stage for Zoom, where she sang for the glory and honor of God. At the request of church leaders, she also began conducting online psychology seminars and Bible studies. Through her influence, four people have been baptized during the pandemic.

Gabriela has a special message for young people who might, like her, be tempted to stray from the path that leads to Christ.

“Do not waste your time in the world,” she says. “Every person has gifts and talents, and you only need to find them and use them for God’s glory.” 🌍

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

church in La Paz, Gabriela’s hometown, in Bolivia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” The Thirteenth Sabbath projects to open a church in La Paz and in three other cities in Bolivia illustrate Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Bolivia and Peru share Lake Titicaca, the world’s highest navigable lake at 12,507 feet (3,810 meters) above sea level. It has a surface area of 5,157 square miles (8,300 square kilometers).
- You can tell if an Aymara woman is married or single by how she wears her bowler hat: tipped to one side if she is unmarried, and on the middle of her head if she is married.

# God Is in Control

Kurt



Carol came to her friend Kurt with a big problem. Someone was trying to steal her house in Trinidad, Bolivia, and she wanted Kurt's help.

The problem began when Carol moved from Bolivia to Brazil to pursue a postgraduate degree in anesthesiology. Carol and Kurt had worked together at a medical university, and she and her husband also had run a medical clinic in Trinidad.

When Carol and her husband moved to Brazil, they left their house and land in the hands of a trusted friend. It was a good piece of property, located on prime land just three blocks from the city center. Their friend moved into their house and expressed an interest in buying it and the surrounding land. Carol loaned him money to help with the purchase.

But when Carol returned for a visit several years later, she found to her dismay that the friend had initiated legal proceedings to acquire the house and land at no cost. He was taking advantage of usucapion, a legal process that allows a person to acquire the title to a property

simply by possessing it for a long, uninterrupted period of time.

Carol went to court, and the litigation dragged on for year after year. In the fifth year of litigation, Carol finished her postgraduate studies and received a good job in Brazil. She and her husband also bought a house in Brazil and settled down. They did not have the money to pursue the court case in Bolivia, so Carol came to Kurt, an old friend. "I want to give this property to your church," she said.

She recalled that she and her husband had at one point wanted to construct a medical clinic on the land. But now, she said, she would like to see a Seventh-day Adventist church built on the site instead.

"I want this property to be a clinic for the soul," she said.

Kurt consulted with church leaders, and they agreed to accept the donation to expand gospel outreach in the city.

But it seemed like Satan wanted to stop the deal. Court proceedings went on for another five years and ended up in the Supreme Court of Bolivia. The case was



*A view of the Supreme Court of Bolivia.*

very time consuming, but the good Lord intervened, and the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Adventist Church in only 30 days. The church received the title to the property, and plans were put into place to construct a new church building and healthy lifestyle center.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct the church building and healthy lifestyle center in Trinidad. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24 so that this land can have a clinic for souls.

"God has shown once again that He sets times and decides places at His good pleasure," Kurt says. "God is in control. May His will always be done on earth just as it is done in heaven." 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know the photo shows Kurt and his friends.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](https://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 4 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Bolivia is a secular state whose constitution guarantees freedom of religion.
- The constitutional capital of Bolivia is Sucre, but the executive capital and seat of government is La Paz.
- Bolivia was named after Simón Bolívar (Simón José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar y Ponte Palacios y Blanco), a Venezuelan military and political leader who led what are now Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama to independence from the Spanish Empire. The Spanish rule of Bolivia began in the sixteenth century and came to an end in 1825, after 16 years of war.
- Only about 11% of all roads in Bolivia are paved.
- A traditional Bolivian dish is Sopa de Mani (peanut soup) made from pasta, vegetables, and ground peanuts.
- The main exports of Bolivia are natural gas, mineral ores, tin, gold, soybeans, and soy products.



# Beautiful Rock

## Jaqueliney

Along a rolling river in central Brazil is a town called Itapaci, which means “Beautiful Rock.”

There is good reason to call Itapaci a beautiful rock. The town is located in a tropical region known for rich deposits of minerals. Miners seek crystals such as mica, which is used to give shimmer and sparkle to cosmetics. Miners also scout for gold.

With beautiful crystals and glittering gold, the town rightfully could be called “the Beautiful Rock of Brazil.”

But not everything seemed beautiful to Jaqueliney, one of the town’s 18,500 residents. Personal problems were piling up in her life, and she didn’t know where to turn. Then a friend, Maria Rita, invited Jaqueliney to go to a women’s group at the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Jaqueliney liked the women’s group, and she began to attend every Tuesday. She learned that the church had other meetings as well, and as soon she was going to all its regular gatherings, four days a week. This was something new for her.

Even though Jaqueliney had been raised in a Christian family, she didn’t really

know God. As a small girl, she had been baptized into her family’s church, and later she participated in her first communion there. She went to her church every Sunday, but her heart felt empty. She did not sense God’s presence in her life. She rarely read the Bible or meditated over its sacred passages.

Her friend Maria Rita, who was raised in an Adventist home, was delighted that Jaqueliney was eager to go to church four days a week.

The two women began to have heart-to-heart conversations about God. Maria Rita asked Jaqueliney what she thought about the Sabbath and the state of the dead. Jaqueliney had never read what the Bible says about the Sabbath or the state of the dead, and she was curious to know more. She began to read the Bible on her own, looking for truth as revealed by God. She meditated on the Bible’s sacred passages.

When Maria Rita offered to study the Bible with her, she gladly accepted. She was fascinated to see that God outlined principles for good health in the Bible. While the Bible-centered message of the Adventist Church touched her heart, she was especially impressed to learn that it had a health message. She had graduated with a university degree in nutrition, and when she saw that the Adventist Church places a strong emphasis on diet and a

healthy lifestyle, she sensed that God was leading her to the church.

The Bible studies weren't always easy. Sometimes Jaqueline wasn't quite ready to accept a new truth. But as she studied, a desire grew in her heart to give her life completely to Jesus.

She finished the Bible studies with Maria Rita, and they started a new study on the book of Revelation. In Revelation, she read about a place more beautiful than Itapaci, "the Beautiful Rock of Brazil." She read about the New Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2, NKJV). She read that the foundations of the city's walls were adorned with all kinds of precious stones, including jasper, sapphire, and emerald (Revelation 21:19). She read that the city was "pure gold, like clear glass" and its streets were "pure gold, like transparent glass" (Revelation 21:18, 21). She read Jesus' promise to give a beautiful white stone to each person who lives in the New Jerusalem. Jesus says, "To him who overcomes ... I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it" (Revelation 2:17). Jaqueline was ready to move.

Today, Jaqueline is a shining witness in her town, "the Beautiful Rock of Brazil." She prays that God will use her to prepare her husband, their daughter, and many others to meet Jesus and move to the New Jerusalem, "the Beautiful Rock of the Universe."

"I thank God for placing wonderful people in my life, and I know that everything works together for good because He has a plan for my life and for

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Itapaci as: i-ta-pas-EE.
- Pronounce Jaqueline as: ZHAK-uh-leen-ee.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." The project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

yours," she said. "I thank Jesus for all that I am and all that I have. I thank Him for loving me so much even though I don't deserve it. I want to keep growing in Christ, and I want to bring many people to Him." 🌍

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 24 that will help establish four new churches in Brazil so that other people, like Jaqueline, will be able to attend church meetings and learn more about Jesus and His soon coming.

By Andrew McChesney

# Praying for a New Church

BRAZIL | August 6

Simone



Late one night, Simone stopped in the restroom of the hospital where she worked as a nurse in southern Brazil.

She saw that the television was turned on in the restroom, and she started to change the channel. But then she noticed that an elderly man was speaking, and she stopped to listen to what he was saying. His words caught her attention. He was talking about health, and Simone wanted to hear more. The program was being aired on Novo Tempo, the Brazilian-language affiliate of Hope Channel International television.

From that night, Simone began watching the Novo Tempo channel regularly. She fell in love with its programs, and she became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For some time, Simone had been praying to God for a stable job. She worked as a contract nurse at various

hospitals, filling shifts here and there, but she longed for steady work so she could buy a home and provide financial security for her two daughters, Jaquelyny and Ana Claudia.

“Dear God,” she prayed, “please help me to find a stable job.”

As she prayed, she received a contract to work as a nurse in a city located about 900 miles (1,500 km) to the north in central Brazil. She still was watching Novo Tempo, and she decided to look for an Adventist church in her new city. But there was no Adventist church in the city.

Simone changed her prayers. Rather than praying for a stable job, she decided to ask for God to open an Adventist church in her city.

“Dear God,” she prayed, “please open an Adventist church here.”

A short time later, Simone received a contract to work as a nurse in yet another city. She and her daughters didn’t have to move very far this time. The city, Uruíta, was located only 25 minutes away by car. Simone hoped to find an Adventist church in her new city, but again there was none. So, she kept praying, asking God to open an Adventist church in the city.

“Dear God,” she prayed, “please open an Adventist church here.”

One day, as she was traveling home from work at the hospital, she passed through the city center and saw a sign outside a building reading, “Novo Tempo.” In Brazil, many Adventist churches have signs reading “Novo Tempo.”

Simone couldn’t believe her eyes! A brand-new Seventh-day Adventist church had just opened in her city. She was so filled with joy that she felt like her heart almost couldn’t fit inside her chest. God had answered her prayers!

Simone walked straight into the church, which had been inaugurated a short time earlier, and joyfully introduced herself to the two pastors, Luis and Israel.

“I have been praying for an Adventist church for a long time!” she exclaimed.

The pastors were happy to meet her, and they rejoiced to hear that she had learned about the Adventist Church through Novo Tempo.

Today, Simone is completing Bible studies and preparing to surrender her life to Jesus through baptism. But she is already a shining witness. Whenever she has the opportunity, she invites someone to visit the church that God opened in answer to her prayers. “God fulfilled my dream to have an Adventist church here in my city,” she says. “Now my desire is for God to enlighten and sustain us so that His work will grow here and many lives will be reached by His love.” 🌍

Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 24 that will help establish four new churches in Brazil so that more people, like Simone, will be able to find an Adventist church in their city.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Uruíta as: oo-roo-ITA.
- Pronounce Jaqueliney as: ZHAK-uh-leen-ee.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” The project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- In 1939, Adventist medical work was established in Brazil with the foundation of the Boa Vista Clinic (Good View Clinic) under the direction of Dr. Antonio Alves de Miranda. In 1942 the clinic was replaced by the Casa de Saude Liberdade (São Paulo Adventist Hospital) under the direction of Dr. Galdino Nunes Vieira, a university teacher who left his job to dedicate himself to medical missionary work.
- In July 1900, the first issue of *O Arauto da Verdade* (The Herald of Truth), the first Adventist periodical in Portuguese, was published.

# Sabbath Ultimatum

Diogo



Diogo was desperately poor, and his employer had given him an ultimatum: Work on Sabbath or get fired. What could he do?

Months earlier, when Diogo had gotten married, he was so poor that he couldn't rent a house in his homeland of Brazil. So, he and his bride moved in with an aunt who didn't charge any rent. At the time, Diogo was working as an intern.

Then he learned that his wife, Nayara, was pregnant, and he began to look for a better-paying job. His real dream, however, was to own his own business.

Diogo spoke to God about his dream. "Dear God," he prayed, "please help me find a job where I can earn enough money to fulfill my dream of having my own company."

It was not easy to find work because of his Sabbath convictions. Nobody seemed to want to hire a Seventh-day Adventist who asked for time off to worship God from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. But Diogo didn't give up, and he kept praying.

One day, he got a call from a gas station that was looking to hire a security guard.

He told the owner that he was a Seventh-day Adventist and could not work on Saturdays. By the grace of God, the owner gave Sabbaths off, and Diogo had a job.

The gas station was located far from Diogo's house. He traveled to work by motorcycle, and he worked every night, except on Sabbaths. It was a dangerous commute and a dangerous job. But he really needed the job.

One day, the gas station owner told Diogo that he would no longer give Sabbaths off. He gave the ultimatum: Work on Sabbath, or get fired. What could Diogo do? Diogo told him that he could no longer work at the gas station.

At that time, Diogo's church was organizing a Caleb Mission Project. Caleb Mission Project is a South American Division initiative that encourages church members to participate in community outreach through home visits, Bible studies, and other activities. Diogo had always enjoyed community service, and he thought, "If I don't have a job, I can have time to volunteer!" But then he remembered that working as a volunteer



would add extra expenses to his limited budget. Furthermore, he had a newborn daughter and was still dreaming about opening his own business.

After much prayer, Diogo decided to volunteer for the Caleb Mission Project. He wanted to be faithful to God and to answer His call to mission.

When the Caleb Mission Project ended, Diogo found that he had an extra 700 Brazilian real (U.S.\$135) left in his pocket despite the extra expenses. With this money, he started his own business.

God has been faithful to him. For the past four years, Diogo has owned a successful bakery. As a lay member, he also helps lead an Adventist church in Brazil. The church organizes a Caleb Mission Project every year, and many young people have been baptized as a result. Diogo says, “I have learned that when we are faithful to God, He takes care of us.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish four new churches in Brazil. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know the photo shows Diogo with his family.
- Read more about Caleb Mission Project in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* at: [bit.ly/Caleb-Project](http://bit.ly/Caleb-Project).
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan, “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.” The project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Mission Post

- Leo B. Halliwell, a pioneer in boat medical-missionary work, began what grew into a well-known welfare ministry in 1931 with the launch of a boat designed and built by himself on the Amazon River. The boat was the first in a series of craft named Luzeiro (Light Bearer) that were subsequently built and used on branches of the Amazon. These boats still give assistance to thousands of people. Besides distributing clothing and food, medical help is given for many issues, the most common being malaria, intestinal parasites, malnutrition, skin diseases, general and tropical diseases, and tooth extraction.

# Church Under Mango Tree

BRAZIL | August 20

Karla



Then she came across an attractive piece of land on a town's main street, and she heard that it was being offered for a low price. She found the landowner, and he offered to sell it for only 35,000 Brazilian real (\$6,650). She didn't have the money, but she still dared to make a counteroffer.

"If we give you a down payment of 5,000 real [\$950], would you allow us to pay off the rest in monthly installments?" she asked.

"How many monthly installments would you make?" he asked.

"We can only pay you 500 real [\$95] a month," she said.

"Sixty installments?" he exclaimed. "You want to pay off the land over five years? I'll go bankrupt in that time!"

"But it's for a good cause," she persisted. "It's to build a church. You will have helped build a house for God. Have you ever built a house for God?"

He conceded that he had not.

"Well, here's your opportunity," she said.

He agreed to sell the land. But Karla still needed to find 5,000 real for the down payment. She asked church members for help and managed to collect 2,700 real (\$515) by the time that she needed to make the first payment. But she still needed 2,300 real. Then she remembered the wooden box that She had placed in the church for donations. She opened it

The church pastor made a sermon appeal that Karla could not resist.

"Friends," he said, "for two years I have been looking for someone to help plant a church in the countryside outside our city. I know that it is far from the city. I know that it is difficult to travel there. I know that the area lacks the amenities of the city. But if we do not reach out to our rural brothers and sisters there, who will?"

Karla, a dentist, had recently moved with her husband to northwestern Brazil, and she was praying for God to use her for His glory. The pastor's appeal stuck in her mind. She wanted to help plant a countryside church. She decided to place a wooden box in the church for people to deposit donations toward the project.

A year passed, and Karla decided to look for a plot of land for the new church. But the rural plots were all very expensive.

and found exactly 2,300 real inside. She made the first payment.

After that, Karla made a payment every month until she lost count of how many payments she had made. A year passed. Two years. In the third year, she decided to make a daring prayer to God.

“Dear God, would you please help us pay off the debt this year so we can begin to worship on the land two years early?” she prayed.

She didn’t tell anyone about her prayer, but God heard. Instead of making one payment every month, she made three, four, or five. Every month, she asked the landowner’s wife, who was in charge of the debt, “How many payments are left?” By her calculations, the debt would be paid off the by September of that year.

September finally arrived, and the pastor recorded a video of Karla handing over of the last payment. The property title would soon be delivered. Karla went home filled with indescribable joy.

But at home, she felt uneasy. Her conscience seemed to be asking, “Karla, how many payments have you actually made?” With reluctance, she counted the payment papers. She had made only 48 payments. She felt so disappointed. A year of debt remained to be paid. With great sadness, she reported the error to the landowner.

The next Sabbath, the Sabbath School teacher issued a challenge to the class. “I’m going to pass out pieces of paper,” he said. “Write down something seemingly impossible that you would like to accomplish before the end of the year.”

Karla wrote, “Pay off the land for the church.” The goal seemed impossible.

But in October, she managed to make five payments. In November, she made four, and in December she made the

## Story Tips

- Know the photo shows Karla and others worshipping under a mango tree.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan, “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.” The project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

last three. Church members celebrated the completion of the land purchase on December 19.

Today, 20 church members attend worship services every Sabbath at what they call their “Church Under the Mango Tree.” They are gathering under the shade of a mango tree while the church building is under construction nearby.

Karla says, “We love our God who can do all things with all our hearts.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish four more new churches in Brazil. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

By Andrew McChesney

# From Critic to Disciple

BRAZIL | August 27

**Breno**



**B**reno was born into a family that practiced a mixture of Christianity and the occult in Salvador, Brazil. He ended up studying in a Seventh-day Adventist school. At the school, he had a teacher who stirred his interest in reading the Bible.

But Breno grew up into a rebellious teenager. As he participated in parties and drank alcohol off campus, the school rules began to annoy him. It seemed like the school forbade everything. The girls could not wear earrings. The girls could not wear short skirts. The girls could not wear nail polish. Even worse, the boys could not sit next to the girls in the school chapel. The school's rules for Christian behavior did not make sense to him, and he questioned all authority.

When Breno graduated, he stopped going to church and reading the

Bible. He became a staunch critic of Christianity. He boasted to his friends, "I'll go anywhere in the world except to church."

He openly questioned God over passages of the Bible that he did not understand. He spoke badly about the church. He even drove away his Adventist girlfriend.

Five years after graduating from high school, he received an unexpected invitation from a high school friend, Victor, to attend his baptism. The day of the baptism proved to be a milestone.

After his baptism, Victor introduced Breno to the Adventist pastor. The pastor immediately prayed for both Breno and Victor. After the prayer, the pastor gave Breno a hug and invited him to come to the church for worship services.

Breno left the baptism in a thoughtful

mood. The pastor's prayer and warm welcome had touched his heart. He wanted to go back to the church.

Breno returned to the church for Sabbath worship services, and there he met God for the first time. I met the God of love. Through the pastor's sermons, he learned more and more about Christ, His gospel, and His grace. Breno's eyes were opened, and years of negative thoughts disappeared. He felt welcomed and loved by the other church members, even though they didn't know him. They reflected the love of God that he was hearing about in the Sabbath sermons.

Shortly after Breno returned to church, he began to take Bible studies with the pastor. Then, during the COVID-19 pandemic, on a very special Sabbath, he was baptized.

Now Breno understands that his friend's invitation to the baptism changed his life forever.

"Christ has changed my life completely," he says. "In a short period of time, I went from being a critic to a disciple, not because of my own merits, but because God's will is good, perfect, and pleasant." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish four new churches in Brazil where other young people, like Breno, can learn about the loving Jesus of the Bible. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know that Adventist school rules mentioned in this mission story reflect the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Fundamental Belief No. 22 on "Christian Behavior," which reads in part, "We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with biblical principles in all aspects of personal and social life. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things that will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit." Read more: [bit.ly/SDA-FB22](http://bit.ly/SDA-FB22).
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- 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." The Thirteenth Sabbath project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

# Swimsuit in Church

BRAZIL | September 3

## Regina



The office workers liked to make fun of Álvaro.

“Why don’t you go with us for a drink after work on Fridays?” said one.

“Where were you last Saturday?” said another. “You never come to our Saturday parties.”

Álvaro always smiled patiently. He spoke kindly and affectionately to his coworkers.

Regina’s attention was drawn to his behavior. She learned that he was a Seventh-day Adventist.

The jokes and ridicule continued for several years at the Brazilian government office where Regina and Álvaro worked in the city of Salvador. But Álvaro never got upset.

One day, a coworker, Gilberto, invited Regina to go with him to visit the place where Álvaro worshiped each Sabbath.

“I heard that it is an unusual place, not a church,” Gilberto said. “We can learn more about the Bible there.”

Regina wanted to know more about the Bible, so she went with Gilberto on Saturday. She wore her swimming suit under some light clothing because she planned to go to the beach afterward.

Gilberto took her to an ordinary-looking house in a residential neighborhood. Immediately, Regina felt comfortable. The house did not look like a church, and there was no outdoor sign with the name of a religious organization. The place was known as “Sharing Jesus.”

People greeted Regina with smiles and hugs. She saw Álvaro in the group of mostly students and teachers.

The pastor and his wife taught a Bible study and afterward answered questions. There were many questions, and Regina found herself smiling as she listened. She liked the sincere interest that the people in the group showed toward the Bible.

After the Bible study, the pastor got up to preach. Gilberto left for his home, and Regina went to the beach.

This routine went on for a number of Saturdays. Gilberto and Regina attended the Bible study and, afterward, he went home and she went to the beach.

One Saturday, one of their new friends invited them to stay for the sermon.

“I’m going to preach, and it would make me very happy if you stayed,” he said.

Regina and Gilberto were too

embarrassed to refuse, so they stayed. They tried to keep out of sight because they had not dressed for church. But they liked the sermon very much and, from that day, stayed for the sermon every Saturday.

A year passed, and Gilberto gave his heart to Jesus in baptism. Regina kept resisting. What would her family and friends say? She remembered how people had treated Álvaro at work. She had been raised in another denomination, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church seemed so nontraditional in comparison.

Four years passed, and Regina heard that the pastor was being transferred to another place. Immediately, she called him. She saw no reason to delay any longer. She wanted to take a public stand for Jesus in baptism.

Many family members and friends didn't accept Regina's decision, but she has no regrets. She became an active member, including in outreach to the needy. In time, she was invited to join the church board.

Regina thanks God every day for the loving way that Jesus was presented to her. She says that as a result, today she is part of God's Adventist family.

"Whenever I have the opportunity, I share my love Jesus at work and everywhere else," she says. "We are the instruments that God uses to attract people to His great love. 🌍"

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped the "Sharing Jesus" church purchase a house for its meetings. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 24 that will help open four new churches in Brazil.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples." The "Sharing Jesus" church and this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrate Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Brazil has the greatest variety of animals of any country in the world. It is home to 600 mammal species, 1,500 fish species, 1,600 bird species, and 100,000 different types of insects.
- Brazil has many different soils and climates, so it can produce a great variety of crops. Its agricultural exports include sugarcane, latex, coffee, cocoa beans, cotton, soybeans, rice, and tropical fruits.
- Soccer (football) is the most popular sport in Brazil, with the national team consistently among the best in the world. It has won the World Cup a record five times.
- The Amazon River flows through Brazil and is the second-longest river in the world after the Nile.



# Searching for Truth

Liu and Cris

Naiara wished for a long time that her brother would worship with her at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Brodowski, Brazil. She saw an opportunity to invite him when he and his wife left their own church over doctrinal differences. Her brother, Liu, and his wife, Cris, began looking for a church that only followed the teachings of the Bible.

Naiara presented Liu and Cris with Adventist books. She offered to give them Bible studies. But Liu did not seem interested. He found it strange that Adventists chose to avoid certain foods. He didn't understand why Adventists worshiped on Saturday instead of on Sunday. But his wife, Cris, was curious to know more about the book of Revelation. Her church had never addressed the book. Still, she didn't want to take Bible studies without her husband.

Not discouraged, Naiara told Cris about the Bible study classes that met during Sabbath School at her church.

"It's so nice to gather in groups before

the divine worship service to study the Bible," Naiara said.

Cris liked the idea of studying the Bible every week at church. She imagined herself participating in one of those classes. Even though she had never set foot in Sabbath School, a love for Sabbath School was born in her heart.

Naiara sent Christian songs to Cris and Liu to listen to on their cell phones, and she presented them with a DVD of Adventist sermons from Novo Tempo television, the Portuguese-language affiliate of Hope Channel International. Cris didn't want to create a conflict in the home, so she watched the sermons while her husband was at work.

Then Liu suffered a serious head injury. He fell from a truck at work and was whisked away to the hospital. While he was undergoing surgery, Naiara comforted Cris in the waiting room.

"The pastor and others at church are praying for Liu," Naiara said.

The surgeon declared the operation

a success. He said the head injury was serious but Liu would make a full recovery.

The next day, when Cris was allowed in the hospital room to visit her husband, he said that an Adventist pastor had already stopped by to pray with him.

Naiara again offered Bibles studies, and Cris accepted on the condition that her husband did not know. She wanted to avoid conflict. A date was set for the first Bible study, and Cris and Naiara agreed to meet while Liu was at work.

But Cris didn't feel right keeping a secret from Liu. She told him about the Bible study. On the day of the Bible study, Liu did not go to work as usual. Instead, he stayed at home to participate in the Bible study with the two women.

Over the next few months, Liu and Cris studied all 28 Bible lessons with Naiara. As they learned more about the Bible, their prejudices against the Adventist Church crumbled. They saw that the church sought to follow only the teachings of the Bible.

Cris was baptized together with a son, Ezekiel. A year later, Liu and their daughter, Tamiris, were baptized. Today, Liu and Cris are Sabbath School leaders in the Adventist church in Brodowski. The motto of the Sabbath School department reflects their own lives: "My family and I serve God with joy." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new church in Brodowski, Brazil, so more families can serve God with joy. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Know the photo shows Liu and Cris with their three children.
- Pronounce Naiara as: nai-YAAR-ah.
- Pronounce Liu similarly to the English name Leo.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](https://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." The Thirteenth Sabbath project to establish a new church in Brodowski illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Brazil was added to the map of the world during European explorations led by Portugal and Spain in the late fifteenth century. When Europeans first reached Brazil, the country was home to about 30 million indigenous people. Today, only about 300,000 remain, living mainly in Brazil's remotest places.
- About 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is located in Brazil.
- At least 70 uncontacted tribes live in the Brazilian Amazon.

# Depending on God Alone

BRAZIL | September 17

Marcelo



Everything seemed perfect and under control after Marcelo gave his heart to Jesus in Brazil. But then a new management team assumed control of the textile company where he worked, and their changes put his job at risk.

The new managers reduced the number of hours that the employees worked during the week and, to make up for it, introduced an extra work day on Saturdays.

Marcelo had no intention of working on Sabbath. He had faithfully kept the Sabbath every week since he and his wife, Cláudia, had joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church three years earlier.

Marcelo tried to speak with the management but to no avail. All employees were asked to sign a contract agreeing to the new work hours. Marcelo was the only person who refused.

Fear overwhelmed Marcelo as he contemplated an uncertain future. Would

he be fired? What would happen next?

But then he decided to surrender everything to God. He would let God fight the battle for him. Peace filled his heart as he made the decision. He felt certain that God would not forsake him.

The flames of affliction grew hotter as the company implemented the new work routine. During the first week, Marcelo followed the same work schedule as the others. But on Sabbath he went to church while his coworkers worked.

When he returned to work on Monday, he found to his surprise that he still had a job. The days passed, and he wondered what would happen next. On payday, he found out that his salary had been cut.

Marcelo didn't know how he and his wife would survive. Complicating matters, his wife had recently become pregnant.

The company was no longer a pleasant place to work. Coworkers mocked Marcelo. "You're crazy," said one. "You're lazy," said another. Marcelo will never forget the day that a coworker said, "I want to see what your God will do for you."

Marcelo renewed his decision to leave everything in God's hands. Month after

month, he and his wife lived on faith and emergency aid from church members and relatives. As the crisis dragged on, he buckled down on his decision. He would remain faithful to God no matter the cost.

After a while, Marcelo's coworkers stopped taunting him as they saw his faithfulness to God and his diligence at work. They even began to support him. One day, they signed a petition to the managers, asking that Marcelo receive Saturdays off and his full salary. The petition went unanswered.

Two years passed, but God did not forsake Marcelo and his family. Marcelo saw the fulfillment of the words of the psalmist, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25, NKJV).

God honored Marcelo for honoring Him. One day, Marcelo received an unexpected letter from the managers. They acknowledged that they had treated him unfairly and promised to restore his salary and respect his right to worship on Sabbath. Marcelo and his wife were thrilled! God had answered their prayers!

Marcelo went on to work at the company for another 14 years. He says, "I can affirm that it is worth serving God. I believe that through God's grace I was able to leave a mark on the company. Many coworkers learned about God and His faithfulness through my experience. They saw what my God is able to do." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new church in Marcelo's hometown of Maua, Brazil. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 24.

## Story Tips

- Know the photo shows Marcelo with his wife, Cláudia, and 14-year-old daughter.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- 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." The project to establish a new church in Maua, Brazil, illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## Fast Facts

- Brazil's highest mountain is the Pico da Neblina (Mist Peak) at 9,823 feet (2,994 meters) above sea level and on the border with Venezuela. Because it is almost permanently shrouded in cloud, it was not discovered until the 1950s. It was first ascended in 1965, 12 years after Everest.
- Brazil is the only country in South America that speaks Portuguese.
- Brazil has about 4,000 airports, more than any other country other than the United States, which has 13,513.
- The statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro weighs 635 tons (576,062 kg), is 125 feet (38 meters) high, including its pedestal, and has been named one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World."

# Honoring Lord of Sabbath

13<sup>th</sup> SABBATH: BRAZIL | September 24

## Felipe



It all started in the fifth grade. For the first time, Felipe was required to attend a religion class at his private school in Brazil.

His parents explained to the principal that their family was Seventh-day Adventist and asked for Felipe to be excused.

The principal saw bigger future problems waiting for Felipe.

“How will he graduate without attending classes on Saturdays?” the principal asked. “In high school, a lot of classes are scheduled on Saturdays. And isn’t every day God’s?”

But he gave permission for the boy to leave the classroom and read his Bible and Sabbath School lesson in another room during the religion class.

Felipe felt uncomfortable being different from the other children, but he had no desire to conform. In his childish mind, he thought, “If God was faithful to Daniel and Joseph, He will be faithful to me.”

Felipe’s first Saturday classes began the next year in the sixth grade. At first there were only two or three classes. Felipe skipped them and studied from his friends’ notes. The school respected Felipe’s right to worship on Saturday and advanced him to the next grade.

Felipe finished elementary school, and his parents were summoned for another talk when he started high school.

“Many classes and exams are held on Saturdays,” the principal said. “Are you sure that you want to keep Felipe in this school?”

Felipe’s father was quite sure. He wanted the boy to stay in the school because it was the same one that he had attended many years earlier.

Felipe skipped all classes on Saturdays. Sometimes it was difficult. Half of the classes on some subjects were on Saturday, and there was no way that he could take them at another time. But God honored Felipe’s faithfulness, and he kept advancing

to the next grade.

At first, the high school classes lasted from 1:30 p.m. to 8:40 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, with occasional classes in the mornings. But then the number of Saturday classes intensified to three classes on Friday evenings, seven on Saturday mornings, and four more on Saturday afternoons. Felipe didn't attend any of the classes on Sabbath. God blessed Felipe, and he graduated from high school.

Then it came time for Felipe to take entrance exams to study medicine at a state university. His dream was to become a physician. But his world seemed to fall apart when he failed to make the list of successful university applicants.

"I've always been faithful," he prayed. "Why aren't You blessing me?"

Although he felt sad, he also sensed the peace that comes from trusting the God who knows everything, hears everything, and sees everything.

He took the entrance exam for the private university where his father worked. To this day, he remembers the theme of the essay, "Science and Religion." His name again did not make the list of successful applicants.

Felipe prayed and reflected for a week.

Then the university released a second list of successful applicants, and his name was at the top. His essay had scored top marks.

Saturday classes remained a problem at the university. In Felipe's third year, he had a class that met four periods a week, including two on Saturday. He skipped the Saturday classes, and the teacher failed him. Felipe's academic adviser couldn't help. "How are you going to become a doctor?" he said. "This profession will

## Story Tips

- Know that Felipe is an endocrinologist.
- Ask how faithful Sabbath observance served as a tool for mission outreach in Felipe's story. Discuss how many people learned about the Sabbath through Felipe.
- Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the South American Division: [bit.ly/sad-2022](http://bit.ly/sad-2022).
- This mission story illustrates Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." The project to establish four churches in Brazil illustrates Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." For more information, go to the website: [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## On 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath

- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word worldwide and that one-fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open eight churches in two countries in the South American Division. The projects are on page 3 and 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, adults and children could act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the two countries in the South American Division — Bolivia and Brazil — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to establish eight new churches, four in each country.

demand a lot from you. We can't do anything for you."

But God provided in an incredible way. When Felipe registered for the next semester, he learned that an unusually large number of students had failed the same class in the previous semester. As a result, an extra class would be offered, and it did not meet on Saturdays. It was his opportunity to retake the class from the same teacher. Felipe passed the class.

During his time at the university, many teachers asked about his absence from Saturday classes, and they showed a great deal of respect for him and religious freedom when he explained his convictions about the seventh-day Sabbath.

Saturday exams continued after Felipe finished the university. The exams for medical residency and, later, for a medical license were scheduled on Saturdays. But Felipe was able to take them at other times. Only 30 percent of hundreds of candidates passed the medical license exam, and amazingly Felipe scored first place in all Brazil.

Today, Felipe is a professor at the

private university where he once studied. Just a few days ago, a teacher mentioned during faculty meeting that an Adventist student was studying in one of his classes.

"How will she graduate if she misses my classes on Saturdays?" he asked.

In response, a long-time teacher gestured toward Felipe. "You have living proof of how someone can miss Saturday classes and still graduate right here in front of your eyes," he said.

The Sabbath story is repeating itself. Just as God helped Felipe when he was faithful, God will help every faithful student — and will turn their experience into a mission story to His glory. 🌍

Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish four new churches in Felipe's homeland of Brazil so more people can learn about the Lord of the Sabbath. Another four churches will be opened in Bolivia. Thank you for planning a generous offering to help spread the gospel in the South American Division.

By Andrew McChesney

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the South Pacific Division to:

- Establish Hope Channel television and Hope FM Radio in Papua New Guinea
- Record and produce King's Kids Discipleship Series, five children's television series of 13 episodes each for broadcast and digital platforms worldwide. Series based on themes and stories from *Steps to Christ*, *Life of Jesus-Desire of Ages/Christ Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*, South Pacific Division

# Leader's Resources

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

Bolivia: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/Bolivia-Pres">bit.ly/Bolivia-Pres</a>
Nations Online	<a href="http://bit.ly/NationsOnline-Bolivia">bit.ly/NationsOnline-Bolivia</a>
Britannica	<a href="http://bit.ly/Britannica-Bolivia">bit.ly/Britannica-Bolivia</a>
Brazil: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/Brazil-GOV">bit.ly/Brazil-GOV</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/LP-Brazil">bit.ly/LP-Brazil</a>
World Travel Guide	<a href="http://bit.ly/WTG-Brazil">bit.ly/WTG-Brazil</a>
Peru: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/Peru-GOV">bit.ly/Peru-GOV</a>
Peru Travel	<a href="http://bit.ly/Peru-Tourism">bit.ly/Peru-Tourism</a>
National Geographic	<a href="http://bit.ly/NatGeo-Peru">bit.ly/NatGeo-Peru</a>
Uruguay: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/Uruguay-GOV">bit.ly/Uruguay-GOV</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/LP-Uruguay">bit.ly/LP-Uruguay</a>
Wikitravel	<a href="http://bit.ly/WikiTravel-Uruguay">bit.ly/WikiTravel-Uruguay</a>

### Seventh-day Adventist

South American Division	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-SAD">bit.ly/SDA-SAD</a>
Bolivia Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/BoliviaUM_FB">bit.ly/BoliviaUM_FB</a>
Central Brazil Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-CBUC">bit.ly/SAD-CBUC</a>
East Brazil Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-EBUM">bit.ly/SAD-EBUM</a>
North Brazil Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-NBUM">bit.ly/SAD-NBUM</a>
Northeast Brazil Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-NEBUM">bit.ly/SAD-NEBUM</a>
Northwest Brazil Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-NWBUM">bit.ly/SAD-NWBUM</a>
South Brazil Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-SBUC">bit.ly/SAD-SBUC</a>
Southeast Brazil Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-SEBUC">bit.ly/SAD-SEBUC</a>
West Central Brazil Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-WCBUM">bit.ly/SAD-WCBUM</a>
North Peru Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-NPUM">bit.ly/SAD-NPUM</a>
South Peru Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-SPUM">bit.ly/SAD-SPUM</a>
Uruguay Union of Churches Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SAD-UUCM">bit.ly/SAD-UUCM</a>

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. Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will 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 South American Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

NKJV. Bible texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version © Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

## EDITORIAL

**Andrew McChesney** Editor  
**Wendy Trim** Editorial Assistant  
**Emily Harding** Layout Editor

## OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

**Gary Krause** Director  
**Rick Kajjura** Communication Director  
**Jeff Scoggins** Program Director

## COMMUNICATION TEAM

**Andrew McChesney** Editor, *Mission*  
**Laurie Falvo** Editor, *Mission 360*  
**Kayla Ewert** Projects Manager  
**Ricky Oliveras** Video Producer  
**Caleb Haakenson** Video Producer

Special thanks to Juninha Barboza (SAD), Herbert Boger (SAD), Bill Quispe (SAD), and Livia Rosa (SAD).

Website: [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org)

**Mission** (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2022 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

Third Quarter 2022  
Volume 111, Number 3

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Permission is granted to reproduce material from this quarterly for use in local Sabbath Schools and children's ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of this material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized in writing by the editor at the above address.

For subscription inquiries, e-mail [Rebecca Hilde at rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com](mailto:Rebecca.Hilde@pacificpress.com) or call 1-800-545-2449 or 1-208-465-2527. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, U.S.\$7.50; international, U.S.\$14.50. North American Division churches can receive a complimentary subscription by contacting the above telephone numbers or e-mail address.



## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

CONFERENCE	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Argentina Union Conference	622	429	119,263	45,377,000
Bolivia Union Mission	481	673	122,738	11,633,000
Central Brazil Union Conference	1,239	807	283,337	47,150,395
Chile Union Mission	686	309	104,239	19,470,000
East Brazil Union Mission	1,126	1,601	213,472	16,964,966
Ecuador Union Mission	308	368	54,332	17,511,000
North Brazil Union Mission	1,872	1,524	322,437	17,442,676
North Peru Union Mission	1,424	1,722	213,721	16,418,565
Northeast Brazil Union Mission	1,087	1,470	206,830	33,059,297
Northwest Brazil Union Mission	1,001	838	169,491	7,598,084
Paraguay Union of Churches Mission	69	90	13,654	7,255,000
South Brazil Union Conference	1,226	848	172,350	30,605,684
South Peru Union Mission	1,156	1,467	200,623	16,405,435
Southeast Brazil Union Conference	1,397	1,069	223,162	43,033,609
Uruguay Union of Churches Mission	60	50	7,127	3,531,000
West Central Brazil Union Mission	782	762	135,409	15,957,289
Attached Field	0	1	8	4,000
<b>Division Totals</b>	<b>14,536</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>2,562,193</b>	<b>349,417,000</b>

## PROJECTS

- 1 New church, El Alto, Bolivia
- 2 New church, La Paz, Bolivia
- 3 New church, Cochabamba, Bolivia
- 4 New church, Trinidad, Bolivia
- 5 New church, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil
- 6 New church, Brodowski, Brazil
- 7 New church, Maua, Brazil
- 8 New church, Santos, Brazil

