

Trans-European Division

Second Quarter 2020

Supplemental information to share during mission story time in Sabbath School. Compiled by Wendy Trim.

Cyprus

1. Cyprus Section has two churches and one company and 103 members. With a population of 876,000, there is one Adventist for every 8,505 people.
2. The first Seventh-day Adventist to go to Cyprus was Moses Boursalian, an Armenian who fled there with his family from Antioch, Turkey, around 1912. For years he quietly sold combs made by his family, traveling from village to village on donkey back and speaking of his beliefs to his neighbors. Later, his son John became the first Adventist colporteur on the island.
3. Except for visits by Adventist ministers to baptize new converts and hold Communion services, there was no official church work for many years. In 1932, Canadians R.S. Greaves and his wife, former missionaries to Turkey and Greece, became pioneer workers on the island.
4. Today, about 78 percent of Cyprus' residents belong to the Autocephalous Orthodox faith; 18 percent are Muslim; the remaining 4 percent of worshippers are Maronite or Armenian Apostolic.
5. Cyprus is divided into two parts; the southern part of the island is known as the Independent Republic of Cyprus or "Greek Cyprus" even though it's not part of Greece. The northern part of Cyprus is still under military occupation by Turkey, which the Turks call the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." Depending on which part of the country a person lives, the residents are either known as "Greek Cypriots" or "Turkish Cypriots."
6. Cyprus is a multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. People of the island speak a mix of Greek, Turkish, and English.
7. Cyprus is one of only four countries in the EU that drives on the left. The others are Britain, Republic of Ireland, and Malta.
8. The remains of the oldest known pet cat, dating back 9,500 years, was found in Cyprus buried with its human.
9. Cyprus cheese, known as halloumi, has been recognized as a traditional Cypriot product by the United States and the EU, so officially halloumi is only halloumi if it's made in Cyprus.
10. The Cyprus Mouflon, a kind of wild goat, is the largest land mammal of Cyprus and has been the symbol of Cyprus Airways for many decades.
11. With a very low crime rate, Cyprus is among the safest places in the world.
12. The first Olympic medal won by Cyprus was at the London 2012 Olympics by Pavlos Kontides, who won a silver medal in men's sailing.
13. Cyprus is home to 20 rare species of orchid and there are more than 1,950 species of flowering plants, 140 of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Finland

1. The Finland Union has 62 churches, nine companies, and a membership of 4,678. In a population of 5,518,000, that's 1,180 people for each church member.
2. The Church in Finland oversees Finland Junior College, a nursing home (Nurmikoti Oy), and a publishing house (Media7 Julkaisut), as well as a Bible correspondence school and a media center.
3. The first Seventh-day Adventist in Finland was a sea captain, A.F. Lundqvist. While at sea, he was converted by the Plymouth Brethren. In 1885, he purchased Uriah Smith's book "Daniel and the Revelation" from George Drew, an Adventist colporteur in England. He also bought Ellen G. White's book, "The Great Controversy." As a result of reading these books he immediately began to keep the Sabbath and became a Seventh-day Adventist, remaining faithful until his death in 1955 at the age of 97.
4. The official languages of Finland are Finnish, native to 90 percent of the population, and Swedish, native language to 5.4 percent of the population. The indigenous Sami language is an official language in northern Lapland.
5. Between the 12th and 19th centuries, Finland was part of Sweden, before it became a part of the Russian Empire. It gained independence during the Russian Revolution in 1917.
6. Finland has about 188,000 lakes leading to the nickname "land of the thousand lakes."
7. Another nickname for Finland is "land of midnight sun." During summer the sun does not drop below the horizon in the north but shines all day and night.
8. Finland has some unique wildlife, including the gray wolf, wolverine, elk, its national animal the brown bear, and national bird the whooper swan.
9. Forests including pine, spruce, and birch, cover more than 86 percent of Finland, making the country the largest forested area and largest producer of wood in Europe.
10. The national sport of Finland is called Pesapallo, which is a bit like baseball, but the pitcher stands near the batter and throws the ball straight up into the air. The batter has to hit it as it comes down.
11. Per capita, Finland is the most successful country in Olympic history in terms of gold medals. "Flying Finn" Hannes Kolehmainen won three gold medals in 1912 in javelin throw and distance running. Paavo Nurmi won a total of nine gold medals in 1920, 1924 and 1928 in middle- and long-distance running.
12. The Finns have the world's highest annual consumption of milk per capita.
13. There are more saunas than cars in Finland.
14. Although Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish are quite similar to each other, Finnish is something else. The Finnish language is part of the Finno-Ugric language group and is more similar to Estonian than the Scandinavian languages, even though it neighbors the Scandinavian countries.
15. The Finns love Salmiakki, a candy known as "salty licorice."
16. The coldest temperature measured in the country was in 1999, in Kittilä, where the temperature went all the way down to minus 60.7 F (minus 51.5 C).

Ireland

1. The Irish Mission has 12 churches and a membership of 855. Ireland has a population of 6,683,000, so that's only one Adventist for every 7,816 people.
2. In 1861, the Review and Herald magazine published letters from Ireland reporting that five persons had begun keeping the seventh-day Sabbath as a result of receiving books and papers from relatives in the United States.
3. Shamrock (a type of clover) is the national symbol of Ireland and, along with the harp, is a registered trademark of the country.
4. Curling is one of the most popular sports in Ireland. In curling, players slide polished granite stones on a sheet of ice towards a target area. The path of the rock can be influenced by two sweepers with brooms who follow it as it slides down the ice, using the brooms to alter the state of the ice in front of the stone.
5. The longest place name in Ireland is Muckanaghederdauhaulia.
6. Ireland's flag has three colors for a reason. The green represents the Gaelic tradition of Ireland, the orange is meant to represent those who followed William of Orange, and the white stripe in the middle represents peace between both.

Norway

1. The Norwegian Union has 62 churches, two companies, and 4,535 church members. In a population of 5,314,000, that's 1,172 people for every member.
2. As early as 1874, the Review and Herald magazine reported a letter from a woman named Reirsen in Norway, saying that she and her husband had begun to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and that several others were interested as a result of having read the Advent Tidende paper.
3. The Advent Tidende, a Danish-Norwegian paper and first non-English periodical published by Seventh-day Adventists, was begun by John G. Matteson, a Dane who had emigrated to the U.S.
4. Oslo is the third-biggest city in Scandinavia (after Stockholm in Sweden and Copenhagen in Denmark), with more than 660,000 inhabitants.
5. The Norwegian language is a Germanic language and is similar to the Swedish and Danish languages. Almost all Norwegians can speak English, which is taught in school as a second language.
6. In the north of Norway, the indigenous people of the Arctic Circle also speak the Sami language. The Sami people, or Laplanders/Laps, live in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, and Finland and are traditionally reindeer herders.
7. In Norway, you can find reindeer (also called caribou). These animals only live in the northern hemisphere above the Arctic Circle, traveling far distances to find food. They have antlers, which they use for scraping snow away from the ground to find food. Reindeer are the only mammals that can see ultraviolet light.
8. Norwegian Roald Amundsen was the first person to reach the South Pole in the Antarctic on Dec. 14, 1911.
9. Norway is the birthplace of skiing. The word "ski" comes from a Norse word, *skīth*, meaning "piece of wood." An ancient rock carving at Rødøy in Nordland county shows that Norwegians used skis as far back as 4,000 years ago. The oldest preserved ski is 2,300 years old, found in Finnmark in far northern Norway.
10. The Trafalgar Square Christmas tree in London comes from Oslo, Norway. The city has sent a tree every year since 1947 as a token of gratitude for Britain's support during World War II. The Norwegian royal family and government lived in exile in London from 1940 to 1945.
11. Vikings originated in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. The name "Viking" comes from a language called "Old Norse" and means "a pirate raid." Those that went raiding in ships were said to be "going Viking."
12. The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded in the capital city, Oslo, annually since 1901. It is one of the five Nobel Prizes, the others awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, in recognition of academic successes in chemistry, physics, medicine, and literature.

Poland

1. The Polish Union has 115 churches and 26 companies, with 5,790 members. In a population of 38,434,000, there is one member for every 6,638 people.
2. The first Adventist church in Poland is now actually in Russia. In 1888, J. Laubhan, and H. Szkubowicz moved from Crimea to what was then eastern Poland. Their three years of work resulted in a church in Zarnówka in Volhynia.
3. The Polish Union has a college of theology and humanities (Wyzsza Szkoła Teologiczno-Humanistyczna), a nursing home (Samarytanin), and a publishing house (Wydawnictwo Znaki Czasu).
4. About 90 percent of the Polish population identify as Roman Catholic.
5. The 380,000-acre (150,000-hectare) Białowieża Primeval Forest in Poland is Europe's last ancient forest and home to 800 European bison, Europe's heaviest land animals. The bison were once extinct in the wild but, thanks to successful breeding and reintroduction programs, are making a comeback.
6. Poland's formal name is Rzeczpospolita Polska (Republic of Poland).
7. It is estimated that 100 million pączki, a Polish-filled doughnut, are consumed every year on "Fat Thursday" (the last Thursday before Lent). Pączki has been eaten in Poland since at least the Middle Ages.
8. Nicolaus Copernicus, the famous astronomer, was born in 1473 in Toruń (Thorn), Poland.
9. Marie Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland, on Nov. 7, 1867. With her husband, she discovered the elements polonium (Po), named after her native Poland, in the summer of 1898 and, soon thereafter, radium (Ra). She is credited for coining the term "radioactivity" and won her first Nobel Prize in physics in 1903.
10. In October 1978, the bishop of Kraków, Poland, Karol Józef Wojtyła, became Pope John Paul II.
11. One of the world's oldest salt mines, the Wieliczka Salt Mine, located in the southern Polish town of Wieliczka, was built in the 13th century and produced table salt until 2007. The mine's attractions include dozens of statues, three chapels, and an entire cathedral carved out of rock salt by the miners. The mine reaches a depth of 1,073 feet (327 m) and is more than 178 miles (287 km) long.
12. In 1912, Casimir Funk, a Polish-born American biochemist, coined the term "vital amine" to describe the class of chemicals he and other researchers were studying, and it was later simplified to vitamin.
13. The first surviving cookbook of Polish recipes dates from 1682 and the dishes have strong Lithuanian, Tartar-Turkish, and German influences.
14. Seven countries share a border with Poland, including Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Slovakia, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, and Germany.
15. Of all the migratory birds that travel to Europe for the summer, one quarter breed in Poland, making it the most important bird breeding ground in Europe.
16. Poland is home to more winners of the World's Strongest Man title than any other country in the world.
17. The oldest restaurant in Europe, Piwnica Swidnicka, is located in Poland and has been open since 1275.
18. Pizza in Poland is a type of street food that consists of a baguette covered in ketchup, mushrooms, and melted cheese.

Serbia

1. The conferences that make up Serbia (and neighboring Montenegro) have 172 churches and 6,300 members. With a population of 9,434,000, that's 1,497 people for each member.
2. The first tracts in the Serbian language were printed in Hamburg in 1893 to 1896, although there were no baptized Adventists in Serbia.
3. The Constitution of Serbia defines it as a secular state with guaranteed religious freedom. Orthodox Christians number 6,079,396 and comprise 84.5 percent of the country's population. There are 356,957 Roman Catholics in Serbia, about 6 percent of the population. Protestants only make up 1 percent of the population and Muslims, with 222,282, or 3 percent of the population, form the third-largest religious group.
4. Serbia is the birthplace of 18 Roman emperors, a fifth of all Roman emperors, and the highest number from a single country.
5. The official name of Serbia is the Republic of Serbia. It shares borders with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Albania.
6. The most expensive cheese in the world, Pule, is an extremely rare cheese made in Serbia from donkey milk. It costs U.S.\$576 for 1 pound (0.45 kg).
7. Most Serbian last names end with *ić*, which means "child of."
8. Nikola Tesla, regarded as one of the most important inventors in history, was a Serbian. Tesla made great discoveries in the fields of electric current and magnetism and his name is also used as the unit of magnetic induction. When Albert Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize, a reporter asked him "What is it like to be the smartest person in the world?" and he replied, "I don't know. Ask Nikola Tesla." The electric car is named after him.
9. Beograd (Belgrade) is one of the oldest cities in Europe, first settled in the third century BC by the Celts, before becoming the Roman settlement of Singidunum.
10. Serbia is the world's largest raspberry exporter, accounting for one third of all the raspberries in the world.
11. The first satellite video transmission between Europe and North America in 1963 was a picture of the Serbian fresco of the "White Angel" from Monastery Milesevo.
12. For 500 years, Serbia was ruled by the Ottoman Empire, now the modern country of Turkey.

Game

Poland

Serso

Serso requires two players, each holding a stick, to try to catch a ring that is tossed at them using the stick.

The sticks can be anything stick-like and smooth, about 24 inches (60 cm) long. The ring can be made from wire, such as a wire clothes hanger, untwisted and reshaped into a circle 12 inches (30 cm) across.

A quick video of the game in action can be found at <http://bit.ly/Sersogame>.

Recipe

Cyprus

Semolina Cake (Kalo Prama)

Ingredients:

18 oz (500 g) semolina
5 oz (150 g) sugar
6 oz (170 g) plain yogurt
6 oz (180 ml) sunflower oil
4 eggs, separated
2 tsp (10 g) baking powder
5 oz (150 g) blanched almonds, chopped

For the syrup:

2 cups (500 ml) water
15 oz (420 g) sugar
1 Tbsp (14 g) rose water

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C).

Beat the egg whites until stiff.

Beat the oil with the sugar until well mixed. Add one egg yolk at a time and beat well. Mix in the yogurt. Then add semolina and baking powder and half the almonds and mix well.

Fold the well-beaten egg whites gently into the mix.

Pour into a greased baking dish (8-inch- or 20-cm-square) and bake for 10 minutes. Take out and place remaining almonds on top of the cake and then bake for a further 35 minutes or until cake is golden and cooked through. Take out of the oven and allow to cool completely in the tray.

To make the syrup (you can make this in advance): Cook water and sugar in a pan until the sugar has melted and about a third of the water has evaporated and it is syrupy. About 15-20 minutes. Add rose water. Pierce the cake with a skewer and pour the syrup on top. It may float on the top at first but eventually it will be absorbed by the cake. Once cool and all the syrup has been absorbed, cut into diamond shapes and serve.

Song

Serbia

Kiša Pada (It's Raining)

Traditional Song

Serbian	English
Kiša pada, trava raste, gora zeleni Kiša pada, trava raste, gora zeleni.	It's raining, grass is growing, forest is turning green, It's raining, grass is growing, forest is turning green.
U toj gori raste drvo tanko visoko U toj gori raste drvo tanko visoko.	In the forest, a tree is growing, slim and tall, In the forest, a tree is growing, slim and tall.
Pod njim sedi moja seja, a ja pored nje Pod njim sedi moja seja, a ja pored nje.	Under the tree my sister is sitting, I am beside her, Under the tree my sister is sitting, I am beside her.

Pronunciation

Keesha pada, trava raste, gora zalanee
keesha pada, trava raste, gora zalanee

oo toy goree raste drvo tanko veesoko
oo toy goree raste drvo tanko veesoko

pod nyeem sadee moya seya, a ya pored nye
pod nyeem sadee moya seya, a ya pored nye

[a – as in car]

[e – as in bed]

The melody can be heard at <http://bit.ly/Kisapada>.