

children's

FOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY LEADERS

MISSION

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
Second Quarter 2005





MAKING MISSIONS FUN

Mission News

Send a copy home with each child. **3, 4**

Early Bird Activities

Listen to a mission story **2**
Work a puzzle **22**
Color the flags **24**
Color the picture **6, 26**

Mission Potluck

Recipes of North America **18, 20**

Language Skills Pages

Languages of North America **12**
American Sign Language **14, 16**

Games

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Resources

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GraceLink Connections

Stories in this issue that correlate with the Sabbath School GraceLink dynamics:
Grace **5, 7, 9**
Worship **11, 13, 15, 17**
Community **19, 21, 23, 25, 27**

Mission News

Copy the “Children’s Mission News” on pages 3 and 4 to send home with each child.

Early Bird Activities

Mission activities make great activities to encourage children to come early. Create a “mission corner” using pillows or cushions and a wall mural. Provide interesting missions-related activities for those who come early. Following are some ideas:

Listen and learn. Supply picture books about children from North America or about persons who are deaf or hard of hearing for the children to read. (Check the children’s section of your local library.) Record the mission stories on cassette each week and let children listen to one they missed or that they especially liked.

Work a puzzle. Print out copies of the puzzle on page 22. Provide pencils and enough help to make the puzzles easy and fun.

Coloring fun. Copy the flags of North America on page 24 for the children to color. Decorate your

room with these flags or laminate and send them home with the children to use as placemats or prayer reminders.

Or make copies of the Bible picture on page 26 for the children to color.

Mission Potluck

Plan a picnic potluck featuring some favorite picnic foods of North America. Hold the picnic in a nearby park, or decorate the fellowship hall tables with red and white checkered table cloths. If you wish, cut stars from blue construction paper and sprinkle them down the middle of each table. Add baskets of fresh fruit or cookies and brownies for dessert.

Language Fun

North America includes just three countries, and yet nearly every language on earth is spoken here. On page 12 find a few words in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in North America.

Page 14 contains some basic words and phrases in American Sign Language (ASL), the language used by many who are deaf or hard of hearing. Teach these words and phrases to increase members’ awareness of persons in North America who are deaf. Practice signing the song on page 16, and use it during the Thirteenth Sabbath program.

Mission Resources

On page 31 is a list of resources that can help make your mission programs more interesting this quarter. Ordering information is included.

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

On page 29 you will find ideas for the Thirteenth Sabbath program. Review the program early in the quarter so that you know well ahead of time what children will need to learn.

Save Your Copies of Mission

When the quarter ends, file your copy of *Children’s Mission* away for future reference. Next time this division receives the emphasis, you will have additional puzzles, recipes, stories, and ideas to enrich a new group of children.

On the Cover

Mission-minded children in one school raised enough money to build a church in another land.





children's MISSION NEWS

**Second Quarter 2005
North American Division**

Rainbow Land

This quarter we will visit children who live in North America. Some people say that North America is a rainbow land. That means that the people in North America come in all colors and sizes. Some are brown and others are tan. Some have brown, curly hair, and others have red or blond, straight hair. All that color is like a rainbow.

In many countries people speak the same language. But in North America many people have come from another country and speak a language other than English. It can be fun to listen to people speaking other languages and guess where they are from. But how can you make friends with someone who doesn't speak your language? How can you talk to one another?

Love in Any Language

In Sabbath School you have learned some words in another language. Do you know how to say "I love you" in French? In Spanish? In Russian? In Chinese? In sign language? These languages, and many others, are spoken in North America.

This quarter we will learn about one language that very few people "speak." It is called sign language. It is not a spoken language like Spanish or French. It is a language of hand signs and finger spellings. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing need to use this language.

Thousands of people in the world cannot hear. And if they cannot hear, how can they communicate with their families, their neighbors, the grocery store clerk, or the pastor? How do you think you would feel if

only a few understood you or could speak with you?

You would feel lonely and sad and maybe afraid. It would be much harder for you to learn in school, since so much of what we learn is through our ears.

Try This

Ask your mother for some cotton. Stuff it into your ears. Now, talk to your mother or a friend, and listen to what they say to you. Are their words harder to understand? If you had cotton in your ears when you went to school, would you be able to hear everything your teacher said?

Children who are born deaf have many challenges to overcome. Because they could not hear when they were little, they did not learn to speak. So when they go to school, they must learn special ways to talk. It takes a long time to learn to say words when you cannot hear.

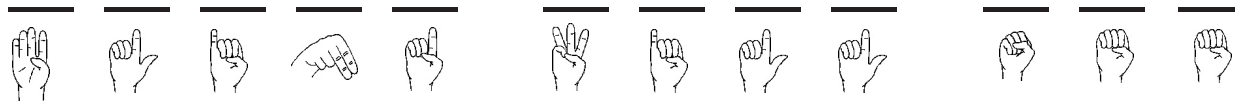
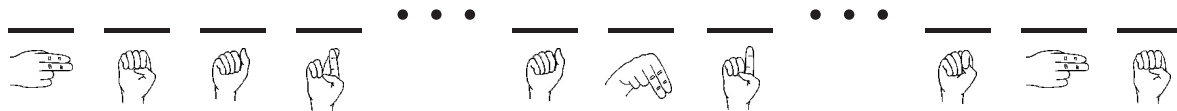
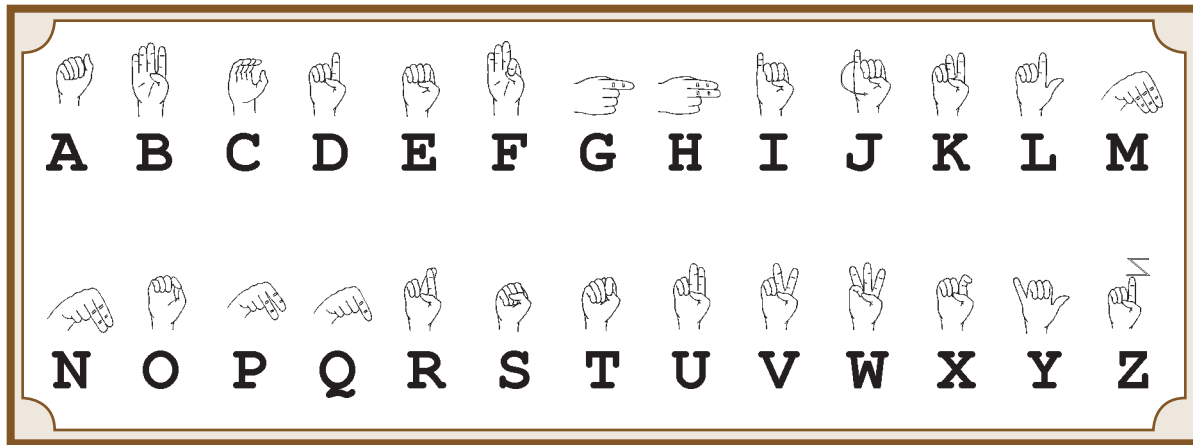
While most children can learn what "mother" and "father" and "tree" mean, deaf children must work extra hard to understand words such as "happiness" or "love" or "sacrifice." Even though they may be very smart, they do not have the language to express their ideas.

This quarter we will learn more about what it means to be deaf. We will learn to "sing" a song in sign language. It is beautiful! We will also learn to say a few words in sign language, so we can talk to a person who cannot hear.

You can start learning right now. Turn this page over and work the puzzle on the back. It is written in sign language.



SIGN LANGUAGE PUZZLE



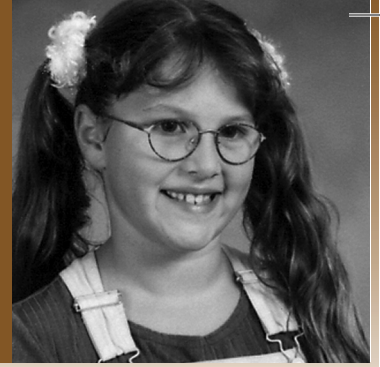
29:18 (NIV).



WHO IS A MISSIONARY?

GraceLink Connection: Grace. A Missionary is any person who loves God and who lives and shares that love with others.

Kelsey



Materials needed: pictures of people representing several different ethnic groups; scenes from different countries and different cultural settings, such as a jungle, a village, a modern city.

When I say the word “mission,” what do you think of? *[Allow children to respond, and affirm their responses.]*

I am going to show you some pictures. When you see a picture that shows “mission,” stand up. *[Show pictures one at a time, without making any comments. Include pictures from your own culture as well as other cultures. Allow time between pictures for children to stand and sit again. Chances are that the children will associate mission with people different from themselves, people living in poverty, in jungles or villages rather than affluent people living in modern cities.]*

Mission happens everywhere people live. God wants us to open our eyes and see mission opportunities all around us. Our story today is about a girl who saw a mission in her own home.

Locks of Love

Kelsey is 11 years old and in the fourth grade. She had lovely long hair that swished when she walked. It is hard to believe that Kelsey would ever cut off her lovely hair, but she did. She had a special reason for cutting her hair; she cut it for love.

Kelsey loves her teacher at school. When her teacher learned that she had cancer, Kelsey and her classmates learned all they could about the disease. They learned that chemotherapy, a treatment that helps get rid of the cancer, sometimes causes patients to lose their hair. Kelsey thought about how she would feel if she lost all of her lovely hair. She twirled a piece of her hair around her finger and thought about what her teacher was suffering through.

Then Kelsey learned about an organization called Locks of Love (“locks” means hair). Locks of Love collects real hair to make into wigs for people who have lost their hair during treatment for cancer or because of other diseases.

Cut My Hair

That night Kelsey told her mother, “I want you to cut my hair.”

“Are you sure?” her surprised mother asked.

“Yes, I’m sure,” Kelsey answered. “I want you to cut my hair so it can be made into a wig for someone who has lost their hair.”

Kelsey’s mother listened as Kelsey explained her plan. Then she carefully braided Kelsey’s long hair and tied it with a ribbon. *Snip, snip*; she cut the braid off. Kelsey helped her mother tie the cut end of the braid with ribbon, then she put it into a box to mail to Locks of Love.

Kelsey examined her short hair in the mirror. “I know,” she said with a giggle. “I’m going to let my hair grow long again. Then I can cut it again and make another wig. That will make me a hair farmer!”

Somewhere a girl or a teenager or a woman is wearing a wig made of Kelsey’s soft lovely hair.

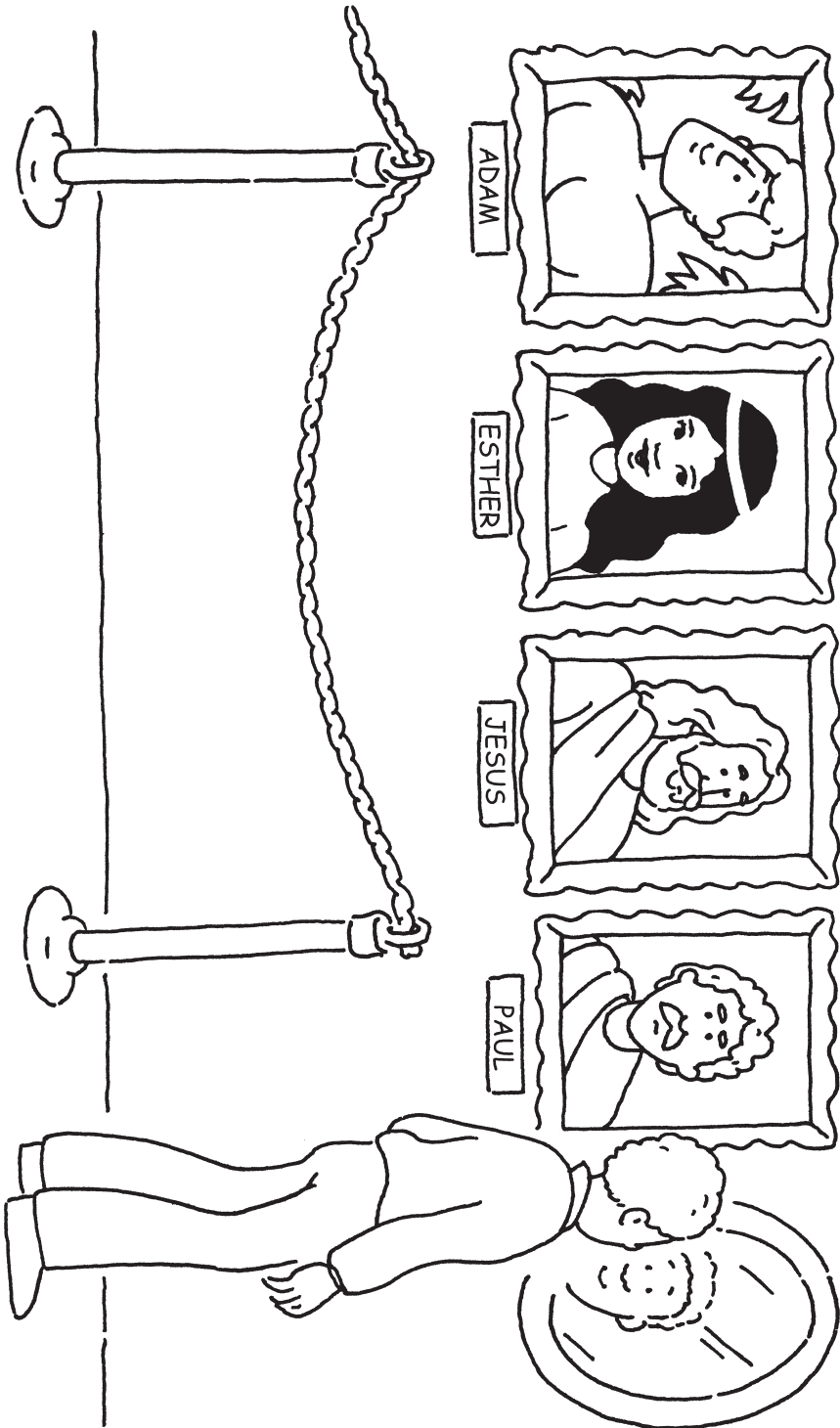
The Silent Missionary

Who was a missionary in this story? *[Let children respond.]* Yes, Kelsey was. Did she tell someone that Jesus loves them? *[Let children respond.]* Not directly, but by her actions she showed others God’s love. And perhaps, when a classmate at school asked Kelsey why she cut her hair, she was able to tell them that she did it for love.

You do not have to cut your hair in order to show your love for others. You can also show love by being kind and helpful to those around you. Can you think of other ways to show love for those around you? *[Encourage children to list ways to show their love. Close with prayer.]*



WHO IS A MISSIONARY?



WHO HAS A MISSION?

GraceLink Connection: Grace. God loves everyone and wants His children to share the good news with others.

When I say the word “mission,” what do you think of? *[Pause while the children respond; affirm their responses.]*

Let’s see if we can identify what a person’s mission might be. *[Sit in a chair; pretend you are in a spacecraft getting ready for launching. Say:]* Stand by for the countdown: 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1—blast-off! Who am I? *[Let children guess.]* Yes, I am an astronaut. An astronaut’s mission is to help us learn about our world. *[If time permits, role play being a teacher or a carpenter and ask children how these jobs are important.]*

Do you know that God has an important mission for you? *[Read aloud Matthew 28:19, 20.]* These verses tell us our mission is to share God’s love with others. So who has this mission? *[Let children respond.]* We all have this mission.

Who Is a Missionary?

Missionaries are people who share Jesus’ love with others. Can you name a person in the Bible who shared God’s love with others? *[Allow children to name characters, and if you have a picture or felt of that person, let them put it on the board. If they cannot think of characters, give hints, such as the following:]*

God sent this man to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. *[Moses]*

This woman was willing to die to save her people. She said, “If I perish, I perish.” *[Esther]*

This boy shared his lunch so that Jesus could feed 5,000 hungry people. *[The boy with loaves and fishes.]*

A missionary is someone who shares with others their love for Jesus. Can you think of someone in our church who is a missionary? *[If children cannot come up with a suggestion of their own, suggest some—the pastor, a Sabbath School teacher, a deacon or deaconess, a helpful member, etc.]*

Are there any missionaries here in our room? *[Let children respond.]* Did you realize you are a missionary? How do you share Jesus’ love with others? *[Encourage children to respond with ways to share God’s grace through their obedience, by sharing, smiling, inviting others to church, or telling others of God’s love for them.]*

Story: José’s Invitation

Until recently, 5-year-old José [ho-SAY] did

not know much about God. José’s father is a farm worker. Although he works very hard, he earns very little money. When their landlord raised their rent, the family had to move. They had moved six times since José was born.

When two women visited the family and learned that the family had no place to live, they found a little home for them. It was just a small building in the backyard of a family’s home, but it gave the family a place to stay until they could find something better. And that is where José learned about Jesus.

Soon after the family moved there, José was exploring his new yard. He wandered toward the big house and looked inside.

“Hello,” a pleasant voice said. “What’s your name?”

“José,” the boy replied.

“We are David and Maria,” the woman said. “We live here.” Maria invited José to visit anytime. They treated José kindly and often invited him to join them for dinner.

One Friday evening José stopped by just as the family was having worship. They invited him to stay. They sang songs and prayed. José liked worship, and when it ended he asked if he could come back every Friday evening for worship. Friday evenings became special to the boy.

One Friday afternoon as José waited eagerly for worship, he saw a woman and her daughter in the front yard of their home.

“Hey!” José said. “We’re going to have worship soon! Can you come? We will have singing and prayers and good food. Come!” José tugged on their hands.

The woman and her daughter smiled at José’s eager invitation. Then they followed him to David and Maria’s home. When they arrived, David and Maria were already singing. Later the woman told David and Maria how José had invited them to join them in singing and in prayer.

The mother and daughter continued to come to worship on Friday nights. The daughter has accepted Jesus as her Savior because José invited them to worship.

José was a missionary, wasn’t he? You can be a missionary too. It’s that easy. Can you think of someone you would like to visit this week and share God’s love?

[Close with prayer.]



HOW ARE THESE PEOPLE MISSIONARIES?



WHAT DO MISSIONARIES DO? part 1

GraceLink Connection: Grace. We worship God because His love is constantly working all around us.

Activity: Missionary Scrapbook

You need pages cut from magazines and newspapers that show people in all kinds of activities and careers, construction paper, scissors, and glue.

I am going to hold up some pictures of people. If you think this person can be a missionary while doing his or her work, raise your hand. *[Hold up pictures you have clipped from magazines (or enlarge the drawings on page 8) that show people doing good things. Include intergenerational pictures, people interacting with others, and people acting alone. Include a picture of someone praying. Show the pictures without comment. Display the pictures where children can see them.]*

When the activity ends, ask students: How can the people in our pictures be missionaries?

[Accept their responses.] We all can be missionaries when we share our love for Jesus through our words and actions. Being a missionary is one way to show our love for Jesus. And one of the best ways to show our love is to pray for others.

Story: Victoria's Bunny

It was a Wednesday evening in spring. The sun was setting behind the distant hillside when Victoria's mother went to check on her daughter's new baby bunnies.

The birth of the baby bunnies had started a new routine for Victoria and her mother. They checked the babies first thing each morning, several times throughout the day, and again before bedtime.

One evening Victoria was busy playing with her friend, Mary Elizabeth. So her mother went to check on the bunnies. As she opened the door of the cage, the mother rabbit leaped to her nest in the far corner. But where the mother rabbit had been sitting lay one of the precious babies.

Mother's heart sank. Newborn bunnies have very little hair, so they must stay in the warm nest in order to avoid freezing in the cold night air.

"Why aren't you in your nest, little bunny?" Mother murmured. As she scooped the little bunny into her hands, she noticed it was already cold and stiff.

Mother placed a finger on its tiny chest to check for a heartbeat, but she could not find even a flutter of movement. She was certain that the bunny was

dead and wondered whether she should simply bury the bunny and tell Victoria later. But she decided to take the lifeless little creature into the house to have another look.

Just as Mother walked through the back door, Victoria and Mary Elizabeth bounded through the front door. Victoria saw her mother holding something and came to look. When she saw the bunny cupped in her mother's hands, the smile on her face faded.

"I'm sorry," Mother whispered. "This little bunny got out of the nest and has died."

Victoria's eyes welled up with tears. "Oh, Mommy, no!" she cried. But almost immediately she begged, "Could I please hold the bunny for a few minutes?"

Mother laid the lifeless little creature in her daughter's hands, and the two little girls walked carefully to Victoria's bedroom.

A Breath and a Prayer

Several minutes passed. Then the girls ran from the bedroom shouting excitedly, "The bunny is alive! The bunny is alive!" Victoria held out her hands so Mother could see the bunny's slow movement. Mother checked its chest and could feel its little heart beating.

"What happened?" Mother asked, amazed.

Victoria hesitated. Then she said, "We didn't want the bunny to die, so while Mary Elizabeth prayed for the bunny, I puffed little breaths of air into its mouth. Jesus made the bunny live again!"

Mother wrapped the bunny in a warm cloth and cuddled it in her hand until its temperature rose to normal. Then Mother and Victoria walked outside to return the bunny to its mother's nest in the rabbit cage.

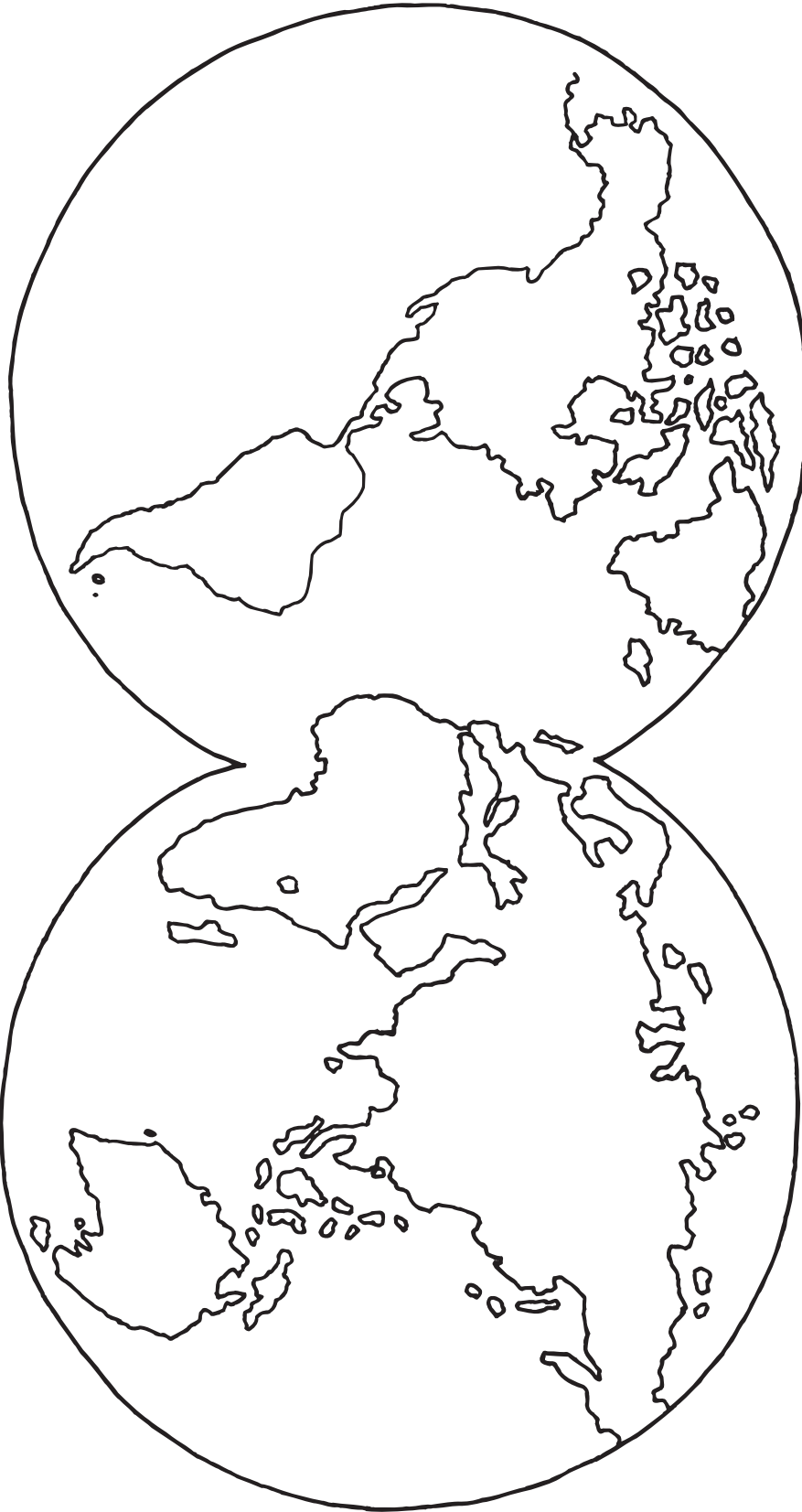
God's Young Ambassadors

Mary Elizabeth called Victoria a hero for saving the bunny, but Victoria denied that she had done anything special and called Mary Elizabeth a hero for praying. Both girls did what missionaries do: they did not lose hope, they prayed, and they worked to save a life.

God cares about baby bunnies. But He cares so much more about us. Do you know anyone who needs to know God's love? How can you be a missionary to that person?



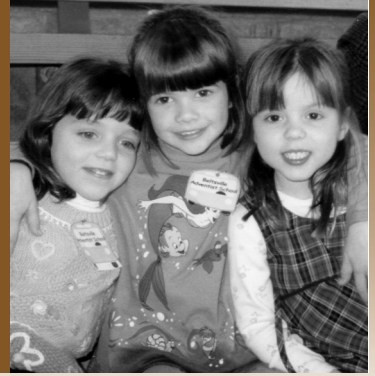
Enlarge this map if possible and use it with story on pages 19 and 21
and with any other excersize focusing on the world.



WHAT DO MISSIONARIES DO? part 2

GraceLink Connection: Worship. When we realize how much God loves us, we want to share that love with others.

Alison, Kim, Brittany



Activity: Missionary Sort

To help children share Jesus because of love for Him.

You need pictures of community helpers such as doctors, police officers, teachers, carpenters, plumbers, pastors, or journalists.

[Show the pictures one at a time. For each picture ask, "How do you think the persons in this picture can be a missionary for Jesus?" Accept their answers; if the children seem stumped, suggest that the people in the pictures can teach, heal, write letters or stories, build or fix things, preach, or help meet other needs. Write key words on the board as children suggest them.]

Missionaries do all of these things, but so do a lot of people who do not even know Jesus. The difference is that missionaries do them in order to share God's wonderful love with others. Sharing God's blessings with others is one way that we can worship God every day.

Story: Three Girls Share Their Mission

"God wants you to tell other people about Jesus," Mother said one morning during worship. Alison, Kim, and Brittany blinked in surprise.

"What other people?" the girls asked. "We don't know many people who are not already Christians."

Mother looked at the girls with a puzzled expression. "You love Jesus, don't you?" she asked. The three girls nodded. "And you want to share God's love with others?" Again the girls nodded their heads. "So what's the problem?"

"Mommy," Kim whispered. "Since we are home-schooled, we don't have classmates who need to know about God."

"We know only the families at church," Allison added. "And they already know about Jesus."

"But you live in a world full of people, and God wants you to be missionaries," Mother explained. "So let's think and pray about how we can be missionaries. I know God will help us come up with some ways to share His love with others."

The girls thought and thought about how they could share God's love with someone else. Then

Alison remembered someone who came to their house every day. "We can share Jesus with the mail carrier!" Alison said.

"But he comes and goes so quickly that we don't have a chance to talk to him," Brittany said. "We would have to camp out by the mailbox."

"And we'd never get our schoolwork done," Kim pointed out.

"I know what we can do!" Allison shouted. "Let's make a poster." Quickly the girls went to work preparing a big sign that read: "Jesus loves you, Mr. Mail Carrier! Believe in Him and you can go to heaven!" They decorated their sign with pretty pictures, then they carefully carried it out to the mailbox and hung their sign, along with a balloon for added cheerfulness.

When their mother saw the sign, her eyes lit up. "I knew you would think of some way to share your love for Jesus!" she chuckled. "But don't stop with a sign. God wants us to keep sharing His love with others."

The girls felt good about sharing with the mail carrier. Then Brittany remembered their gymnastics teacher. They chose some Christian music and took it to class for her to play while they did their cartwheels and flips. Their teacher liked the music, and the girls felt good about sharing it.

One day while they were in the park, the girls sat at a picnic table and began to sing, "I have decided to follow Jesus!" When they finished their song they started another. They noticed that the people walking by listened and smiled.

Allison, Kim, and Brittany did not give any Bible studies or preach any sermons. But these three girls found lots of ways to share their love for Jesus with people wherever they went.

What were some ways that the girls shared their love for God with others? *[They shared Jesus through their poster, their smiles, their songs, and in their cheerfulness and willingness to help and obey.]*

Boys and girls, each of you is a missionary in training. When you do your schoolwork without complaining and come when your parents call you, you are being a missionary for Jesus. How many ways will you find to share God's love with others



LANGUAGES OF NORTH AMERICA

In North America English is the primary language, but thousands of people speak Spanish and French, the next most common languages. Immigrants from other lands often speak their native languages at home. Below are words and phrases in

the 10 most common non English languages spoken by Adventists in North America. Use a different language to greet the children each Sabbath this quarter. If time permits, share a sentence or two about the origins of the people who speak this language.

Spanish

Happy Sabbath fay-LEEZ SAH-bah-doh
 Welcome bee-YEN-veh-NEE-doh
 (to Sabbath School) (ah lah-es-KWAY-lah sah-BAH-tee-kah)

French

Happy Sabbath bohn SAH-bah
 Welcome bee-ahn-v'noo
 (to Sabbath School) (ah lay-COL doo SAH-bah)

Korean

Happy Sabbath KEE-poom AHN-sheek-ir
 IHM-nee-dah
 Welcome HAHN-yuhng HAHM-nee-dah
 (to Sabbath School) AHN-sheek-ir kyo-HAY-shee-gahn

Tagalog

Good morning mah-gahn-dahng oo-MAH-gah
 Happy Sabbath Happy Sabbath
 Welcome Tinatangap po namin kayo
 (to Sabbath School) (sa Paaralang SAH-bah-doh)

Portuguese

Good morning bohn DEE-ah
 Happy Sabbath fay-LEEZ SAH-bah-doh
 Welcome bayn VEEN-doh
 (to Sabbath School) (ah es-KOH-lah sah-bah-TEE-nah)

Indonesian

Good morning suh-LAH-maht BAH-gee
 Happy Sabbath suh-LAH-maht SAH-baht
 Welcome suh-LAH-maht
 (to Sabbath School) dah-TAHNG dee seh-KOH-lah SAH-baht

Chinese (Mandarin)

Chinese is spoken in one of four tones, shown here by the following marks: (1) tone remains even, (2) tone rises at end, (3) tone dips in the middle and rises at end, and (4) tone falls at the end. If no mark appears over the syllable, say it softly.

Good morning dzow3 shahng4 how3
 Hello nee2 how3
 Welcome hwan1 yeen2

Japanese

(No greeting for "Happy Sabbath")
 Good morning oh-HAI-yoh goh-ZAI-mahs
 Welcome YOH-koh-soh
 (to Sabbath School) (AHN-soh-kuh-nee-chee GAH-koh nee YOH-koh-soh)

Samoan

Good morning tah-LOH-fah
 Happy Sabbath mah-noo-WE-ah leh sah-pah-tee
 Welcome tah-LEE-ah mah leh fee M ah-fee M ah

Sign Language

(see page 14 and 16)

A LETTER FROM STEVEN, part 1

GraceLink Connection: Worship. Jesus made us as we are, and we worship Him.

Steven



Hello, my name is Steven. I am 12 years old and in the fifth grade. I live near Washington, D.C. In lots of ways I am just like you. I go to school and church, I am a member of my church's Pathfinder Club, and I like sports. But in one big way I am different from you.

If you stand behind me and call my name, I will not answer you. It is not that I am being rude; I cannot hear you.

I was born deaf. That means that I cannot hear beautiful music or people talking. I can hear an airplane take off or a big train rumble by, and other loud noises. And if I am wearing my hearing aids, they help me hear other sounds a little bit better.

When I am wearing my hearing aids I can tell that my dog is barking or my mother is calling me. But if there are other noises, such as from the television or traffic on the street, then it is hard for me to tell one sound from another.

If you want to know what it is like to be deaf or hard of hearing, try putting ear plugs* in your ears and see how difficult it is to hear. That is what it is like for me all the time.

Special Language

Because deaf people cannot hear people clearly when they talk, we use our hands, our face, and our whole body to talk for us. Mostly we use sign language to communicate with other people. We use our hands to make signs, but we also use our face, and our entire body to help us say what we want to say. So even though I cannot hear a funny story, with sign language I can see what a person is saying and how they are saying it.

With sign language I can do some things that hearing people cannot do. If I am separated from someone by glass, or distance, we can still talk to each other using sign language.

Misunderstandings

Sometimes when I see other children playing, I want to join them. But when they talk to me, I do not know what they are saying, so I cannot answer them. They do not understand what I try to say to them using sign language either. Sometimes children ignore me or make fun of me because I cannot hear

or speak well. That makes me feel lonely and sad. Sometimes I become upset and tell my parents, "It is not fair!" My parents understand my frustration and help me to feel better.

My friends at church know that I cannot hear their words; they know that I talk using sign language. And some of my friends have learned some sign language so we can talk and play and have fun together.

Learning Without Hearing

My family knows sign language. We talk using words and signs. Even my dog, Patty, knows some signs! When I want her to come to me, I clap my hands to get her attention, then I sign for her to come. And she comes!

My parents taught me about Jesus by using sign language. Do you know the sign for Jesus? Can you sign "Jesus loves you"? [Demonstrate, using the instructions on page 26.] Can you make the sign for "I love you"? This is one sign everyone can learn. If you see a deaf person, you can make the sign for "I love you." That will make them feel so much better!

Next week I will tell you more about what it is like to be deaf. In the meantime, practice saying "I love you" and "Jesus loves you" so that when you meet someone who cannot hear, you can share your love with them!

Love,

Steven

* Disposable earplugs, made either from a waxy substance or from foam, are available in many pharmacies and supermarkets.



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



Jesus



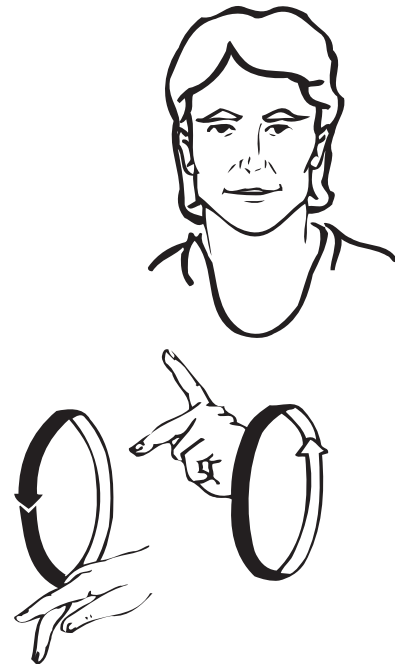
preaches



to



many



people



A LETTER FROM STEVEN, part 2

GraceLink Connection: Worship. We worship Jesus for all the ways He helps us.

Last week we read a letter from a boy named Steven. In many ways Steven is like other children, but in one big way he is different. He cannot hear like you and I can. Steven is deaf.

What are some problems Steven faces because he cannot hear? *[Let children name difficulties deaf children face.]* If we call or talk to Steven and he does not see us, he would not answer us because he cannot hear us.

How does Steven talk with his family? *[Allow children to respond.]* Yes, he uses special signs called sign language. Do you remember the signs we learned last week? Who can show us how to tell someone “I love you”? *[Invite one or more children to demonstrate. See last week’s story for demonstration.]* Good. Now, who can tell us how to say “Jesus loves you”?

Do you remember how Steven said he feels when people do not try to talk to him? *[Allow children to respond.]* Yes, he feels lonely. Let’s read the rest of Steven’s letter and see what else we can learn about what it is like to be deaf.

Going to School

I attend a public school that has special classes for the deaf. We learn special skills that help us live in a hearing world.

Since most people can speak and hear, we learn to read lips. Try it. Pretend you are saying “boy,” but do not make any sound. Look at the children around you. Watch what their mouth looks like when they make the sound of the B, the O, and the ending E sound. Now, whisper “mama” and “me.” Can you see the difference between “mama” and “me”? Some words are easy to figure out.

Now try the words “cheese” and “Jesus.” Can you tell the difference between them? It is harder, isn’t it? Some sounds look a lot alike on the lips, so it is hard to know which one the speaker is really saying.

Deaf people must learn to use several sets of clues. We use sign language, but we also read lips; we may even speak the words as we sign them. By using different methods at the same time, it helps us to understand and be understood.

Welcome to My Church

The church that I attend is different from most

churches. We have several deaf members, so someone signs the songs and the sermon for us, so we can understand too. Did you know that when deaf people pray, we keep our eyes open? We cannot hear the prayer with our ears, so we “listen” with our eyes.

I tell my deaf friends at school about Jesus and His love. I am glad that my church has special ministries for the deaf. I can feel good when I invite my friends to come to church with me. Now my best friend wants to be baptized!

Pathfinders

Do you like Pathfinders? I do! I like to learn new skills and earn honors. This year we made and flew our own kites. That was fun! But there is one part of Pathfinders that I do not enjoy as much. That is the marching. You see, I cannot hear the leader’s commands, so I do not know when the leader tells the children to do something different until the marchers start doing it. That is hard!

My dad and I are teaching the children in Pathfinders sign language, so we all can speak to one another better. I’m really glad they want to learn.

A Perfect World

When Jesus lived on earth, He healed people simply by speaking or touching them. When Jesus comes again, He will touch my ears, and I will be able to hear birds sing and dogs bark. I will hear babies talk and angels sing! I hope Jesus comes soon, don’t you?

Maybe you have a health problem too. Do you blame God because you cannot walk or cannot see or cannot hear? Don’t. Jesus is good and loving and fair; but the devil is bad, selfish, and unfair. The devil brings health problems to people. But when Jesus comes again, no one will be sick, no one will be blind or deaf. The world will be perfect, and we who live in it will be perfect too.

Do you want to be in God’s perfect world? Tell your parents or your pastor or your Sabbath School teacher, and they will help you sign up for heaven! I hope to see you there when Jesus comes!

Love, Steven



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE



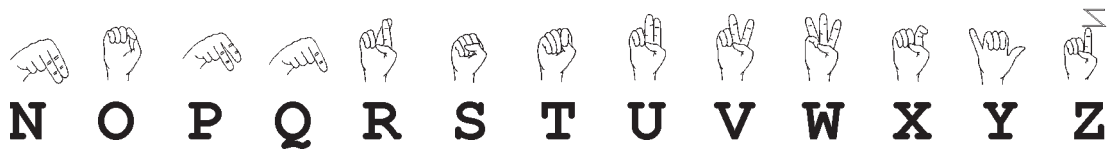
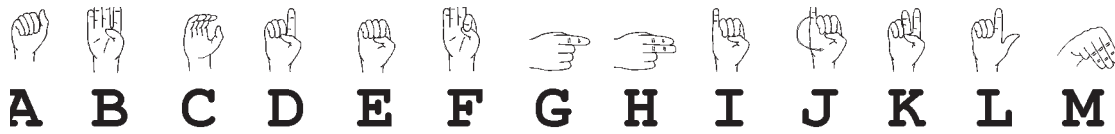
Jesus



loves



children



THE LITTLE MISSIONARY

GraceLink Connection: Worship. When Merida's friend stayed with Merida's family, she learned that God loves her.

Merida



People in North America come from every country in the world. While most people speak English, many families speak Spanish, French, Portuguese, Chinese, or Indonesian. This is one way that people in North America are different from elsewhere. What are some other ways in which people are different? *[Let children suggest ways that people differ—hair color, skin color, the music they enjoy, the countries they call their homeland, etc.]*

The Little French Church

Today we will meet a girl who is a member of a small congregation. The members of this church do not own their own building. Instead they meet in a classroom in a school. The worship services are sometimes held in English, but most often they are held in French, the language of the members' homeland. Some of the members come from French-speaking Africa; others come from French-speaking islands in the Caribbean. The adults study their lesson in French, but the children prefer to study in English, because that is the language most of them learn at school.

Merida

One girl in Sabbath School is quiet. She listens to the teachers, but she does not say a lot. She is still learning English.

Merida [Meh-REE-dah] is 9 years old. She comes from the island of Guadeloupe, in the Caribbean. Can someone show us where Guadeloupe is? *[Allow child to try. Help locate the island if necessary.]*

Merida attends a French-speaking school. In her class is a girl named Tania. One day Merida learned that she and Tania share something very special—their birthday. Merida and Tania became friends.

One day Merida talked to Tania about Jesus. She told Tania how God answered one of her prayers. But Tania said that she does not believe in God. Merida wondered how she could help Tania learn to believe and love Jesus.

House Guest

Tania's father had to go on a trip overseas for two weeks. He asked Merida's mother if Tania could stay with them while he was gone. Merida's mother was

glad to have Tania live with them for two weeks.

When Tania arrived, she put her suitcase in Merida's room. She hung up her clothes in Merida's closet and put her shoes beside Merida's. Then the girls went to play. When it was time for bed, Tania told Merida's mother that she was afraid of the dark. She asked if they could leave a light on so she would not be afraid.

Mother told Tania that she would leave the light on. Then she said to Tania, "Before we go to bed we always pray together. Would you like us to pray and ask Jesus to help you to not be afraid of the dark?"

Mother's Prayer

Tania nodded her head yes, but she said that she did not know how to pray.

Merida's mother invited Tania to listen as Merida and her mother prayed. Tania sat on the bed and listened while Merida's family knelt beside the bed and prayed. They thanked God that Tania could stay with them, and they asked God to take care of Tania's father while he was away. Then Mother asked Jesus to help Tania overcome her fear of the dark and to show her that He loves her.

After prayer, Mother tucked each girl in with a hug and a kiss. Then she told the girls that she would leave the light on in the hall until she went to bed. Then she would turn it off. Tania slept all night and was not afraid.

The following night when it was time for prayer, Tania asked Merida to pray for her and her father again. Merida prayed for Tania and her father and asked God to keep them all safe. She asked God to help Tania to not be afraid of the dark, and to help her understand that an angel is also watching over her while she sleeps.

Soon Tania was trusting Jesus to keep her safe and to help her not be afraid in the dark. Tania did not pray with Merida or her mother, but she knows that God answered Merida's prayers and helped her to not be afraid.

Merida is glad that Jesus gave her a chance to share God's love with her friend. Do you have a friend with whom you can share God's love this week? Then you can be a missionary, just like Merida.

NORTH AMERICAN RECIPES

Photocopy onto heavy paper and cut apart, or fold on dotted line.

North American Picnic

North Americans love picnics. Plan a picnic potluck if you can.

Grab a blanket and a picnic basket of easy-to-carry foods and meet at a nearby park. If you cannot arrange to eat outdoors in a park, set tables with checkered tablecloths and some fresh garden flowers, open the door to let some sunshine and fresh air in, and enjoy an indoor picnic.

Typical picnic foods are finger foods that are easy to prepare and eat outdoors. They include Vegetburgers or vege-hot dogs on buns, served with mayonnaise, ketchup, lettuce, and pickles. Serve with celery or carrot sticks, olives, potato chips, or any other finger foods that are popular and available. Dessert can include fresh fruits or one of the two desserts included below.

Potato Salad

Potato salad and picnics go together, and there are almost as many ways to make potato salad as there are cooks to make it. So start with the basic recipe below and add ingredients to suit your taste and availability.

- 6 cups (about 1 1/2 pounds) potatoes
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise (or salad dressing)
- 1/4 cup chopped onion (or 2 teaspoons dehydrated chopped onion)
- salt to taste

optional ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/2 cup frozen or canned peas or peas and carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped black or green olives
- 1 sprig fresh dill or 1 teaspoon dried dill weed

Boil the potatoes until fork tender; drain and cool. Peel, if desired, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Boil the eggs until hard; cool. Peel and dice. Mix mayonnaise and any other seasonings desired, and let set for a few minutes to blend flavors. Add potatoes, eggs, onion, and any other ingredients you wish. Top with mayonnaise mixture and mix lightly. Refrigerate several hours, and keep cold until ready to serve. (Note: Because potato salad has mayonnaise, it is not safe to keep it at room temperature for any length of time. Serve chilled, and discard any that has remained at room temperature for more than an hour.)

fold

Baked Beans

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 pound navy beans, uncooked | 4 tablespoons brown sugar |
| 2 tablespoons molasses | 1 1/3 cup tomato paste |
| 4 teaspoons salt | 2 onions |
| a few whole cloves (optional) | |

Cover beans generously with water and soak overnight. Drain beans, put in kettle and boil for 30 minutes or until the beans are tender. Add the sugar, molasses, tomato paste, and salt. Mix. Cut the onions into quarters; place in an oiled pan or casserole dish. Add the beans and bake in a slow oven (300° F or 150° C) for three or four hours. The time of baking can be decreased by cooking at a higher temperature. Slower cooking brings out more flavor. Check the beans occasionally, adding more water if they become too dry.



RIPPLES OF LOVE

GraceLink Connection: Community. Children in one Adventist school wanted their own mission project. They decided to build a church in a faraway country.

When Mrs. Seeley walked into her classroom one morning, her kindergarten, first, and second graders were busy drawing pictures. “Good morning, boys and girls,” she said. “What are you doing?”

“We are making pictures to sell!” the children announced. Mrs. Seeley smiled at their enthusiasm. But at recess that morning, she saw her children out in the school parking lot selling their pictures for three cents each to workers from the hospital nearby. The children later brought the money to her to keep.

The next day the children made bookmarks to sell. Again they brought the money to her and told her to keep it for missions. Mrs. Seeley decided that the children were serious about raising money for missions and gave them craft supplies so they could make more bookmarks and refrigerator magnets to sell.

A Church in Papua New Guinea

“What mission project would you like to support?” Mrs. Seeley asked the children one day. The children were not sure, so Mrs. Seeley showed the children a video about a girl who raised money for a church. The children became excited and decided that they wanted to help build a church in Papua New Guinea. [*Locate Papua New Guinea on a world map. Locate Tennessee or the United States on the map and draw a line from Tennessee to Papua New Guinea.*]

Mrs. Seeley was happy to see her young children so excited about their mission project, but one thing troubled her. School would close for the summer in just three weeks. How could the children raise enough money to send to Papua New Guinea in such a short time? The children were not troubled by Mrs. Seeley’s concerns. They just kept making bookmarks and refrigerator magnets to sell. One child announced that he had sold an abandoned bird’s nest he had found in a tree.

In three days Mrs. Seeley’s class earned nearly \$40; in just over a week they raised more than \$80. And by the end of the school year the children had raised \$123 toward a church in Papua New Guinea! But that still was not enough to build a church, even in Papua New Guinea.

Mrs. Seeley made some telephone calls and learned that Papua New Guinea needed many churches—big churches in the cities, and smaller,

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Mrs. Seeley’s Class



simpler churches in the mountains. A missionary in Papua New Guinea even sent her some pictures of a village that needed a church. It would cost about \$2,000 to build the church on the mountaintop.

Let’s Keep Working

On the last day of school, Mrs. Seeley told the children how much they had raised toward their goal to build a church in Papua New Guinea. The children begged her to let them keep working on their project when school opened again in August. “We want to build the whole church, not just part of it!” one of the children said. “Yes, yes,” the others chimed. “We want to build the church by ourselves.”

During the summer some of the students worked with Mrs. Seeley on plans to help raise the rest of the money they would need for the church.

A church member had heard of the children’s project and called with an offer. “I have a blueberry patch,” the man told Mrs. Seeley. “And I am willing to give the money from the sale of blueberries to your project if the children and their parents will come and pick the blueberries.” The children liked that idea. They told their parents and other adults about the man’s offer, and as soon as class was out for the day, students went to work picking blueberries. Their blueberry bonanza brought in \$300 toward the church in Papua New Guinea.

Let Me Help

One Sabbath the children told the church what they were doing. After church Sarah came up to Mrs. Seeley. She does not attend the Adventist school, but she wanted to help build the church in Papua New Guinea. The other children were glad that Sarah wanted to help them. Every Sabbath Sarah brought Mrs. Seeley a small bag of coins. Sometimes it held \$3 and sometimes it had as much as \$7 in it. “How do you earn this money?” Mrs. Seeley asked her one day.

“I paint rocks and sell them,” she answered.

The funds were growing, but they had a long way to go to raise \$1,000. Will a classroom full of children be able to raise enough money to build a church in faraway Papua New Guinea? Come back next week, and we will find out.

NORTH AMERICAN RECIPES

Photocopy onto heavy paper and cut apart, or fold on dotted line.

Cornbread

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cup all-purpose flour | 1 cup yellow cornmeal |
| 2 to 3 tablespoons sugar | 4 teaspoons baking powder |
| 3/4 teaspoon salt | 2 eggs |
| 1 cup milk | 1/4 cup oil |

Stir flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a bowl. Add remaining ingredients and beat just until smooth. Bake in a 9" x 9" x 2" baking pan at 425o F for 20 to 25 minutes.

Apple Pie (makes one 9-inch pie)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pastry | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour | 8 to 9 tablespoons cold water |
| 3/4 cup shortening | |

Sift salt and flour together; cut in shortening with a pastry blender until flour forms a crumb-like texture. Sprinkle four tablespoons of cold water over flour mixture and gently mix water into flour with a fork. Do not over mix. Form dough into two balls. Set one aside and flatten the other into a circle on a floured board or pastry sheet. With a rolling pin, roll dough into a circle about 12 inches in diameter and 1/8 inch thick. Carefully fold pastry in half and place over an empty 9- or 10-inch pie pan. Unfold and pat into place. Repeat procedure for second ball of dough.

Apple Pie Filling

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 6 to 10 tart apples; peeled and thinly sliced | 3/4 to 1 cup white sugar |
| 2 tablespoons flour | 1 tablespoon lemon juice |
| 1/2 to 1 teaspoon cinnamon | dash nutmeg |
| 2 tablespoons butter, optional | |

Mix apples and seasonings and spread mixture carefully over pastry in pie pan. Heap the apples high in the middle. If desired, place dabs of butter over top. Top with second pie crust. Trim excess pastry about one inch past the edge of the pan. Fold edge of pastry under, using a dash of water to seal. Flute by pinching dough between thumb and finger. Place pie pan on a cookie sheet. Bake 400oF for 50 minutes or until golden brown.

Note: For large groups, roll out pie crust to fit in a 9 x 13 inch baking dish instead of a pie pan. Add apples and top with pie crust or sprinkle a topping made of 1/2 cup white sugar, 1 cup flour, and 1/2 cup butter or margarine, chilled. Mix flour, sugar, and margarine with a pastry blender until pieces are crumb-size. Sprinkle over pie filling just before baking.

fold

Haystacks

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 medium onion, finely diced | 1 tablespoon oil |
| 6 cups pinto beans, cooked (or use canned beans) | 2 ounces taco seasoning mix |
| 1 head lettuce, cored, washed, and shredded | 2 to 3 large tomatoes, diced |
| 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese | 4 cups corn or tortilla chips |
| 1 1/2 cups prepared guacamole (optional) | 1 jar salsa |
| 1 cup sour cream (or salad dressing) | |

Sauté diced onion in small amount of oil until clear. If using canned beans, drain half the liquid and set aside. Add beans to onions and heat, stir to prevent scorching. Mash the beans slightly and add taco seasoning. Add bean liquid as needed to keep mixture soft. Place beans in bowl. Arrange ingredients in separate bowls on the table in the following order: corn chips, beans, cheese, lettuce, tomato, toppings. Invite guests to serve themselves, topping their haystacks with one or more of the toppings provided.



RIPPLES OF LOVE, part 2

GraceLink Connection: Community.



Last week our story was about some children who attend an Adventist school in Tennessee. Who remembers what the children did? *[Let children respond.]* Yes, they wanted to raise money to build a church in the mountains of Papua New Guinea. *[Locate Papua New Guinea on the map.]* What did they do to start raising money? *[Let children respond.]* Yes, they drew pictures and made bookmarks. Then after school they sold the pictures and bookmarks to the parents who came to the school to get their children. In three weeks the children earned \$123. That is a lot of money, but it is not enough to build a church, even in Papua New Guinea.

During the summer a man offered to give the money from his blueberry patch if the children would pick the berries. The children raised \$300 from picking the blueberries. How much did the children have then? *[\$423]*. Was that enough to build a church? No. They needed \$1,000! They had to do something really big to earn a lot of money.

Word Spreads

After the children told the church members about their project, Mr. Walton, the director of the Adventist hospital near the school, talked to Mrs. Seeley. “Our hospital is willing to match everything your children raise for the church in Papua New Guinea, up to \$1,000,” he said. Mrs. Seeley was excited, but she told Mr. Walton that she would have to ask the children if they were willing to allow others to give money toward the church. The children decided that they could earn \$1,000 for their church, and the hospital could give \$1,000 for another church in Papua New Guinea.

Yard Sale

The children and their teacher decided that a good way to earn a lot of money was to have a yard sale at the school. They made posters advertising the yard sale and drew arrows to point people to the school, where the sale would be held. Then they made announcements for every student in the school to take home. They asked everyone to clean out their closets, their toy boxes, and their garages, and bring anything they no longer needed to the yard sale.

For more than a week the children came to

school carrying bags and boxes of toys, shoes, clothes, and household supplies. Church members helped the children sort and price the items and place them on tables in the school gym. On Thursday morning, they opened the doors, and people swarmed in. They bought old books, used bake ware, old tools, and clothes. The children got lots of practice adding up prices during the sale. Mrs. Seeley laughed and told them that with all the adding they were doing, they did not have to do a math worksheet that day.

By the end of the day most of the items had been sold. Everyone was hot and tired. After the children helped box up the remaining items that did not sell, and take down the tables, they waited while Mrs. Seeley counted the money. “20, 40, 60, 80, 100 . . . 200 . . . 400 . . . 600 . . .” The children’s excitement grew as their teacher counted through the pile of money. “800 . . . 900 . . . 1,000 . . . 1,010 . . . 1,015.” We earned \$1,015 today! Even Mrs. Seeley was excited about the large amount they had raised.

“How much does that make all together?” one child asked. The children helped figure out their total. “We had \$123 from last spring, \$300 from the blueberries, and \$1,015 from today’s sale. That makes \$1,438 all together. And with the money from the school bazaar, we have \$1,600. That’s more than enough to build the church.

“And with the hospital’s matching funds, we’ll have enough to build two churches!”

“Hooray! Hooray!” the children shouted. “We can build two churches. Two churches where people can learn about God’s love!”

Excitement Continues

The children decided to use the extra money to buy wind-up cassette players for the people of Papua New Guinea, where few people in the mountains can read. This way the people can listen to the Bible in their native languages, and this way learn about Jesus.

The children are still earning money for missions, but this year they are working to raise money by working at odd jobs for their parents and their neighbors and donating what they earn to their next project. Maybe they will build another church on a mountaintop in Papua New Guinea.



WORK A PUZZLE

Animals of North America

Animals live everywhere in North America, from the Arctic snows to the tropical islands. Many of them hide in the forests and mountains. How many of the following animals can you find hidden in the puzzle below? Nine of these are named in the Bible. Can you find them?

Arctic tern
Bear
Bee
Bluebird
Cardinal
Chickadee
Coyote
Crow

Deer
Elk
Fly
Fox
Gila monster
Grizzly
Horse
Husky

Mockingbird
Moose
Mosquito
Raccoon
Rattlesnake
Roadrunner
Robin
Salmon

Scorpion
Seal
Skunk
Sparrow
Swallow
Trout
Walrus
Wolf

W V V T U Y U A W A L R U S K D
O R A R R A C C O O N F M O E R
L A C O D E E R B L U E B I R D
F T O U R G I L A M O N S T E R
D T Y T O R E L K T A B E E N T
A L O C A M O S Q U I T O S M C
R E T H D R S W F O X P M C O R
C S E I R S A R O B I N W O O O
T N S C U T L G T J O S N R S W
I A W K N W M Y H U S K Y P E N
C K A A N M O C K I N G B I R D
T E L D E I N P H O R S E O S S
E F L E R G R I Z Z L Y Q N E K
R L O E T G O R R B E A R Z A U
N Y W Q C A R D I N A L S K L N
F B E L W T S P A R R O W H P K



DAVID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, part 1

GraceLink Connection: Community. David learned about a far away place and decided he wanted to help the people there.

Nine-year-old David studied the map of North America. His eyes traveled over the 12 provinces and territories of Canada and the 50 states of the United States. For geography class, he had to choose a state to write a report about. His eyes wandered to the top left corner of the map, to the largest of the 50 states, Alaska. *Wow!* David thought. *Alaska is bigger than some countries!*

Just then his mother walked into the room from the kitchen. "We have time to go to the library today. Have you decided which state to choose for your geography report?" she asked.

"Alaska," David said. "It's such a neat state. I'd like to learn more about it. I might go there some day as a missionary."

Mother smiled. "OK, finish your math, so we can go to the library right after lunch."

On the way to the library, David kept thinking about Alaska. "I wish we could go to Alaska and see it for ourselves," David said. "I know we can't, but it sure would be fun!"

"Yes," Mom sighed, "that would be a great vacation. But we'll have to be satisfied with a trip to the library."

Doing His Research

In the library David found several books about Alaska and took them to the librarian to check out. "Wow! That's a lot of books on Alaska!" the librarian said. "You must be doing a report."

David nodded. "It's a neat state. I hope I can go there someday."

"Really?" the librarian smiled as she gave the stack of books back to David. "Good luck on your report!"

David and his mother started reading the books that afternoon. David studied the pictures and wrote down things he wanted to include in his report. With his mother's help, David wrote a letter to Alaska's tourism office asking for more information and some travel brochures. The more David learned about the state, the more he wanted to go there.

David found a picture that showed the map of Alaska laid on top of the map of the United States. Alaska stretches from the Atlantic Ocean all the way across the country to the Pacific Ocean. And the Aleutian [ah-LOO-shen] Islands stick out into the Pacific Ocean like a long tail.

David discovered that most of Alaska is covered

with rugged mountains and huge glaciers. *[Show pictures of mountains.]* Not many people live there, and because there are no roads in many places, people have to fly to some of the Alaskan villages.

David learned that some native Americans in Alaska catch fish, walrus, and even whales for food, just as they have done for generations. They make the animal skins into coats, pants, and even boots to protect themselves from the cold. *[Show pictures of Eskimos.]* The people who live in central and southern Alaska carve totem poles from tall trees. *[Show a picture of a totem pole.]* These totem poles honor their ancestors and the animals that represent their tribes.

An Alaskan Birthday Party

"I want to do something to help the people in Alaska learn about Jesus," David told his mother.

"Maybe you could raise some money to help the people of Alaska," Mother suggested.

"I know!" David said, excitedly. "My birthday is coming soon. I could have an Alaskan theme for my party. I could tell my friends to bring money for Alaska instead of giving me gifts."

"That's a wonderful idea!" Mom agreed. "Other people might want to help raise money for Alaska too. We could write letters and invite people to help."

David wrote a letter explaining that he wanted to help the people in Alaska learn about Jesus. His mother made copies of the letter and helped David address envelopes to people they knew.

David decided to have a treasure hunt at his birthday party. He made tiny spears and canoes from wood and Eskimo parkas cut from leather and trimmed in fur. The party was so much fun! David's friends caught his excitement about Alaska and gladly gave him money to help with his mission project.

Letters started arriving in the mail containing gifts of money for his Alaska project. When David and his mom counted up the money, they had \$240 for their Alaska project.

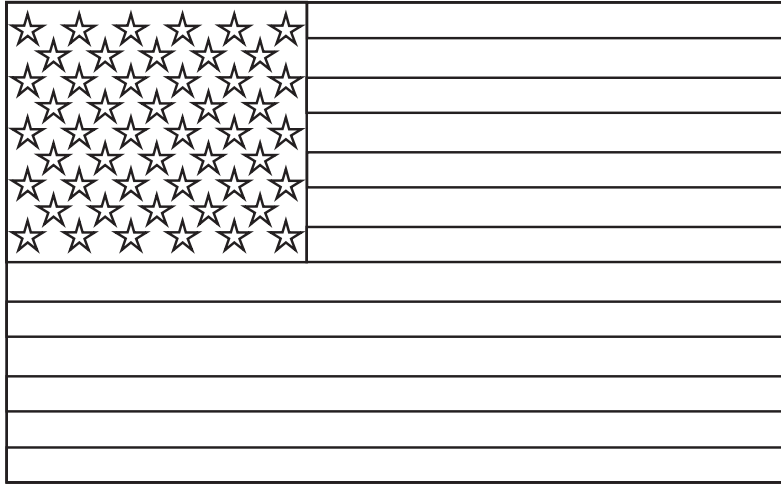
"How do we get the money to Alaska?" David asked his mother.

"Let's pray about it," Mother suggested. "I'm sure God will show us how He wants us to use this money."

Next week we'll find out how God showed David what to do.



COLOR THE FLAGS

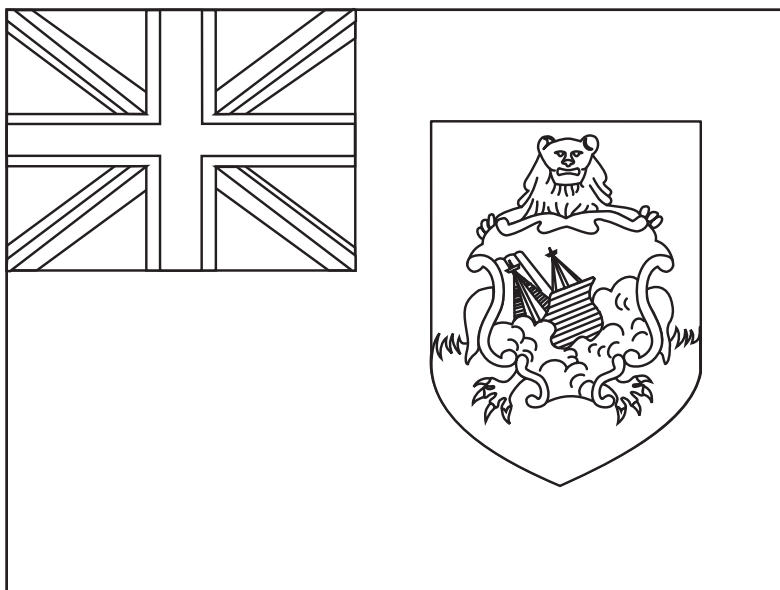
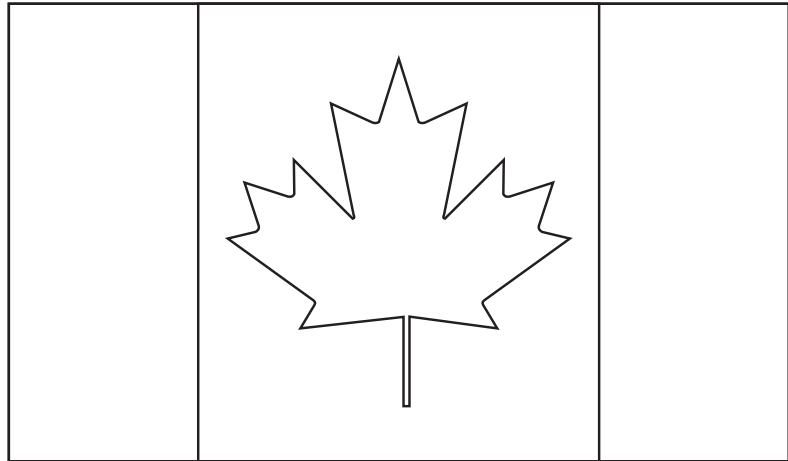


United States

Stars - white
Star box - blue
Every other strip from the top - red

Canada

Leaf - red
Leaf box - white
strip on both sides - red



Bermuda

Background - red
Center stripes at top left - red
Triangles - blue
Grass - green
Lion - red
Ship - brown



DAVID'S MISSION PROJECT

GraceLink Connection: Community.

A boy's birthday project helped believers in Alaska repair their church and invite others to worship.

Last week we had a story about David, a boy who wanted to help people in Alaska learn about Jesus. Who can find Alaska on our map of North America? [Let a child try.] What did David learn about Alaska? [Let children respond.] What is the climate like there? How big is Alaska? Do many people live there? [Let children respond.]

David wanted to help people in Alaska learn about Jesus. What did he do? [Let children respond.] He had an Alaskan birthday party and wrote letters to friends and relatives, asking them to give money for Alaska. David had \$240 to send to Alaska.

But David did not know how he could get the money to the right people in Alaska. David and his mother asked God to show them a project that needed the money. That's where today's story begins.

A Visitor From Alaska

"Guess what!" David's mom told him. "A lady from Alaska is visiting our neighbor. I invited her over to talk to you."

David was so excited to meet someone who really lives in Alaska.

"Are you really from Alaska?" David asked.

"Yes, I am," the lady said. "My name is Beverly, and I live in a small Eskimo village on a lake far from any big city. Have you ever been to Alaska?" she asked.

"No," David replied, "but I have studied about it, and someday I would like to go. Last year I had an Alaska birthday party and asked my friends to give money for Alaska instead of a birthday gift. I have \$240 to help people in Alaska learn about Jesus.

Beverly enjoyed talking about Alaska. She talked about summer days when the sun never sets, and winter days filled with half-light. She described the beautiful mountains and the lake she lives on. She talked about her Eskimo neighbors. Then her eyes lit up. "I think I know a mission project for you! Near my home is a little village called Togiak [TOH-gee-ak]. The village has a little Seventh-day Adventist church, but the building is old and weather-beaten. It needs painting inside and outside, and it needs a new roof. The stove does not work well, and the temperature sometimes drops to 50 degrees below zero in the winter."

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Project Togiak

David tried to imagine what the church looked like. Beverly asked, "Would you like to use your money to help repair the Togiak church?"

"Yes!" David said. "That would be great! Does the church have a pastor?"

"Yes," Beverly said. "But he lives in another town, and there are no roads from his home to Togiak. So once a month he flies in a small plane to hold worship services and visit the people. There are lots of people in Togiak who need to know about Jesus. I think if the church looked better more people would come, don't you?"

David nodded. "May I give you my \$240 now?" David asked. "Then I'll get busy and raise some more money and send it to you. I want to help repair the church in Togiak so that many people can have a nice place to worship Jesus."

"Good!" Beverly said. "I will give the money to the pastor and let you know what happens."

David started writing more letters to raise money for the Togiak church. By David's next birthday he had \$400 more to send to Togiak!

Togiak Church Is Repaired

When Beverly received the \$400, she wrote David and reported that his gifts were enough to repair the church. "Now the church has a new metal roof, and we have painted it inside and out. We bought a new heater, too, so people won't shiver during winter meetings!"

Beverly's letter brought more good news. "The pastor is training some church members to help share God's love in Togiak. These people invite their neighbors to visit the church and watch videos of evangelistic meetings that were held in a nearby town. Now more people are coming to church each week. We hope that many people in Togiak will learn to love Jesus!"

"Isn't that neat!" David said. "The church is fixed up, and the people are coming to hear about Jesus. It makes me happy to know that I could do something to help those people in Alaska!"

Beverly had one more bit of good news. There was some money left over from David's birthday money. Next week we'll find out what special thing he did with that money.

2Q05 25



"Jesus", Sign Language Coloring Book, Christian Record Services/Division for the Deaf, 4444 South 52nd St., Lincoln, NE 68516



DAVID'S SURPRISE PROJECT, part 3

Rochelle & Robert



GraceLink Connection: Community.

After David's birthday money helped repair a church in Alaska, some money remained for a surprise project.

[Briefly review the last two weeks' stories before presenting today's story.]

It was early summer, and David was helping his mother and brother build a greenhouse when the telephone rang. Mother hurried to answer it.

"David!" she called, "it's Miss Beverly from Alaska, and she wants to talk to you!"

David ran to answer the phone. "Hi!" he said, breathlessly. "This is David. Have they finished fixing the church in Togiak [TOH-gee-ak]?"

"Yes, indeed!" Miss Beverly said. "The church looks wonderful now! But that is not why I'm calling. Some people sent money to replace the furnace, so we didn't have to use all your money."

"What are you going to do with it?" David asked.

Summer Camp Surprise

"That is why I've called," Miss Beverly said. "A family in Togiak often comes to church. They are not Seventh-day Adventists, but the mother brings her children Robert and Rochelle to church. Robert is 10, and Rochelle is 11."

That's my age! David thought.

Miss Beverly continued. "We'd like to send Robert and Rochelle to summer camp, if that is OK with you. They can stay for a week and will have a good time learning about God, nature, and healthful living. They cannot afford to go to summer camp, but if you would let us use your money, they could go and learn more about Jesus. What do you think?"

"I've never been to summer camp," David said. "But I think it's a good idea for Robert and Rochelle to go. I want them to learn more about Jesus. Yes, you can use my money to send them to summer camp."

"Thank you, David," Miss Beverly said. "I know Robert and Rochelle will be really happy!"

How Will They Get to Camp?

Miss Beverly told Robert and Rochelle's mother the good news. The children's mother smiled, then said, "I would really like Robert and Rochelle to go to camp, but how will they get there? It costs money to fly to the camp, and we don't have the money." Robert and Rochelle's faces showed their disappointment.

"Don't give up hope!" Beverly told the children. gomission@gc.adventist.org

"God will provide a way for you to go to camp."

Weeks sped by, and summer camp was approaching. Still there was no money to pay the airplane fare for Robert and Rochelle to go to camp. The children began to think they would not get to go after all.

Dear Lord, please help us to find some way to get Robert and Rochelle to camp! Miss Beverly prayed as she worked around the marina that she and her husband owned. It sat on the edge of a large lake. She enjoyed talking to people who came to buy fuel or groceries.

Beverly looked out the window and saw an airplane circle the lake and land on the water. It pulled up to the fueling platform. Beverly recognized the pilot. He lived far out in the bush.

An Answer to Prayer

The pilot filled the plane's gas tank. Then he walked into Miss Beverly's office and paid for the fuel. Then he gave her a \$50 bill. Miss Beverly looked at him in surprise. "What is this for?" she asked.

"Use it wherever you think it will do the most good," the pilot said. "I don't get to go to church in the bush, and I want you to use it in your missionary work."

"Oh, thank you!" Beverly said. "I was just praying for money to fly two children from Togiak to our church's summer camp. Would you mind if I used that to pay their airfare?"

"Sounds good to me," the pilot said.

That left only \$30 more for the airfare. *Those children have to go to camp. I'll just give the \$30 myself!* Miss Beverly decided.

Robert and Rochelle got to go to summer camp. And they loved it! They loved the Bible stories, the crafts, and the songs. When they went back home, they told Miss Beverly and their family all they had learned. Now they go to church every Sabbath. In fact, Robert and Rochelle take their mother to church whenever the doors are open!

David's Gift

Boys and girls, David's birthday gift offering started as a wish, then grew and grew and grew. It helped repair a church, send two children to camp, and best of all, it is helping people learn about Jesus. That's the best gift of all!

NORTH AMERICAN GAMES

Pass the Broom (Canadian Game)

Players: About 10, either age 5 to 8, or 9 to 12, and a leader.

Equipment: A household broom and a cassette tape player or a whistle.

Younger Children: Form a circle facing the center. The children put one hand on their hip and leave one hand free to grasp the broom handle when a neighbor passes it to them. A player cannot change hands once the game has begun. As soon as the music begins, the players begin passing the broom around the circle until the leader stops the music. The person who has the broom when the music stops gives it to the next person and drops out of the game. Each time the music stops, another person drops out. The winner is the person holding the broom.

Older Children: More children can take part. Instead of using taped music, blow a whistle to begin and start passing the broom. Players can pass the broom in either direction. When the leader blows the whistle to stop, the player holding the broom gives it to another player in the circle and steps inside the circle. As players are eliminated, fewer and fewer players are left to pass the broom, but they must run to the next player with the broom and return to their original position. The leader determines both the speed and the suspense of the game by varying the length of time between whistles. The last person left in the game is the winner.

Duck, Duck, Goose

Players: 12 or more, ages 5 to 7

One person volunteers to be IT; everyone else sits in a circle. To begin the game, IT walks around the circle, saying “Duck.” IT touches each person on the head. After saying “Duck” several times, IT says “Goose” and darts off around the circle. The player who has just been tapped “Goose” must stand up and try to catch IT before IT runs completely around the circle and sits down in the player’s empty space. If IT sits down before the chasing player catches IT, the running player is the new IT. If the chasing player catches IT, IT must start a new round of touching heads.

Fang

Players: At least 5, ages 8 to 12, and a leader.

Equipment: A blindfold and a rolled-up newspaper.

Choose one person to be the snake. That person is blindfolded and given a tightly rolled newspaper

to represent a snake’s fang. The other players spread out from one another and stand 12 to 15 feet from the snake. The object of the game is for a player to touch the snake on the head before being struck by the snake’s fang.

The leader points to the first player who will approach the snake. Everyone else remains very quiet as the player moves toward the snake. The snake can use the fang only once and in only one direction with each player. If the fang touches the player, he or she withdraws, and the leader points to another player to try to sneak up on the snake. The first player to touch the snake on the head without being struck is the snake in the next game.

The leader must keep players from darting toward the snake rather than moving stealthily, and for seeing that the snake strikes directly at a player, not with a sweeping motion.

Tag

Players: at least 3, with well-matched running skills.

Many versions of tag are played in North America; they all have similar rules. In most games one player is It and chases the other players until one is tagged. Then that player becomes the new It. Some variations follow:

Animal Squat. To avoid being tagged, the player being chased squats and calls out the name of an animal. Players may not repeat animal names.

Pardon Me. Similar to “animal squat,” but here the squatter must give a new excuse at each squat—“I turned my ankle,” “My foot itches,” and so on. Again, excuses cannot be repeated.

Run for Your Life. The squatter gets only three squats, but stays in the game until tagged once more by It.

Chain Tag. This game can be quite rough and is best played by older boys and girls of near-equal running ability.

When It tags a player, the two players clasp hands, and It pursues another player, who, upon being tagged, takes the hand of the first player. They run together as It pursues another player and adds them to the chain. This continues until all players are tagged and added to the chain.

Adapted from *A World of Children’s Games*, by Mary Duckert (NY: Friendship Press, 1993)



THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

If your division will present the Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adults, the following suggestions should help you plan.

- Assign parts for the presentation below to children who will learn them. Make large drawings of hands, feet, face, mouth, and fingers for the children to hold up at appropriate times during the presentation.
- During the quarter teach the children to sing “We Are His Hands” (*Sing for Joy*, page 129).
- A week or two before Thirteenth Sabbath, send a note home with the children informing parents of the practice times for the Thirteenth Sabbath program and reminding them to help their child memorize their part.

If your division will not join the adults for a special program, use the suggestions that follow to make

Thirteenth Sabbath special:

- Remind the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. If they have made special banks for their offering, encourage them to finish filling them and bring them on Thirteenth Sabbath.
- Use the following presentation in your own class or for a joint kindergarten-primary program to remind the children that they have an important part in sharing God’s love with others.
- If you prefer, invite a special guest to come and speak to the children. If possible, get a blind or hearing impaired person to come and speak about what it is like to be blind or hearing impaired. Encourage the speaker to include ways children can minister to someone who cannot see or hear or give the children hands-on experience reading Braille or signing.

WE ARE MISSIONARIES

Narrator: This quarter we have learned what it is to be a missionary. We have learned that we do not have to go far away from our home to be a missionary. We can be a missionary right in our home and in our community. We can share God’s love with others. Let’s listen as the children tell us some of the ways children in North America are sharing God’s love where they live.

Child 1: I am *[insert child’s name]*. I use my hands to be a missionary. I help carry food baskets to families who do not have enough food. Jesus is happy when I help others.

Child 2: I am *[insert child’s name]*. I use my feet to be a missionary. They take me to visit my neighbor, who is old and cannot go out much. Sometimes I take her some food that my mother has made. Other times I color a picture and take it to her. Granny says my pictures cheer her up.

Child 3: We heard a story about Kelsey, who became a missionary by giving her hair. Kelsey had lovely long hair. Then she asked her mother to cut it off so a company could make a wig for someone who lost her hair while having medical treatments. Now Kelsey is letting her hair grow

again, so she can cut it off to make another wig.

Child 4: We learned about José [ho-SAY], a little boy who learned about Jesus from his neighbors. They invited him to join them for Friday evening dinner and worship. He loved to sing about Jesus and listen to stories of how much Jesus loves him. He wanted to tell others about Jesus, so he used his feet to find someone and his mouth to share with them that Jesus loves them, too. Then he used his hands to urge them to come with him and hear about God’s love for themselves.

Child 5: Three sisters wanted to be missionaries, too. But they were home-schooled and did not see many people during the week. They did not know with whom they could share God’s love. Then one of them remembered the man who delivers their mail every day. They could be a missionary to him. The girls made a pretty poster and mounted it on their mailbox. It told the mailman that they loved him, and Jesus loves him too.

Child 6: We learned about Steven, a boy who is like us except that he cannot hear. Steven told us how it feels to be deaf and what we can





THIRTEENTH SABBATH (continued)

do to make people who are deaf feel loved. We learned how we can use our hands, our fingers, and our faces to show deaf people that we love them. Can you guess what I am saying? [*Sign “Jesus loves you” to the audience.*]

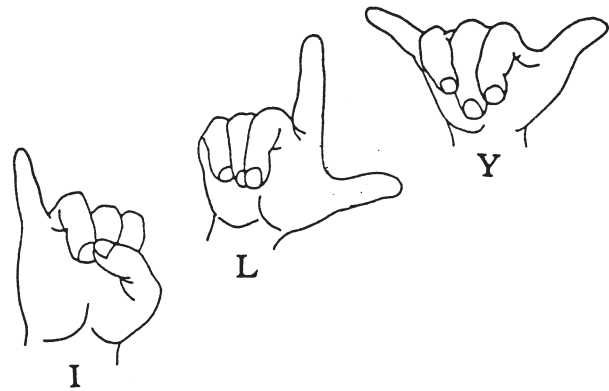
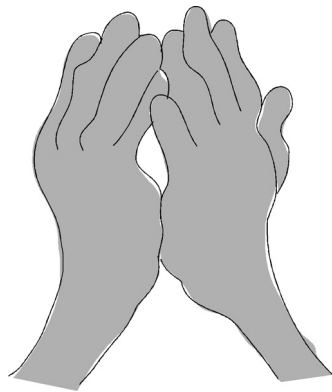
Child 7: We learned that we can be missionaries at home and far away at the same time. David wanted to be a missionary to Alaska, but it was far away from his home. So on his birthday, he asked his friends and his family to give gifts of money for Alaska instead of birthday gifts for him.

Child 8: David’s friends and family members sent lots of money, which was used to help fix up a church in Alaska. The church members painted the church and put on a new roof. Now the church looks nice, and many people come to worship.

Child 9: But there is more to David’s story. Some money was left over, and a lady asked if the church could use it to send two children to camp. David thought that was a great idea! Now the children’s family attends church every week. All this happened because a boy made his birthday into a mission project.

Narrator: As you can see, we learned this quarter that anyone who loves Jesus and wants to share His love with others is a missionary. You are a missionary, too. Whether you are a gardener, a teacher, a store clerk, a nurse, a doctor—whatever you do, do it to honor God and you will be God’s missionary. Another way we can be a missionary is to bring our offerings of love to share with others. Our children will sing for you as the ushers collect your special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

[*Sing “We Are His Hands.”*]





RESOURCES

Following are sources of information that have proved helpful in preparing programs for *Children's Mission*. You may want to order these for your own Sabbath School. Prices listed are subject to change.

Cookbooks

Betty Crocker's International Cookbook (New York: Random House, 1980).

Adventurous Vegetarian, Colin Spencer (London: Adrian Morris Publishing Ltd., 1989).

Reference Works

National Geographic Magazine contains numerous articles featuring life in North America. Browse through recent issues for picture ideas.

Miscellaneous

Library: Browse through the children's section and travel section of a public library or bookstore for picture books on North America. Travel agencies often have colorful brochures on popular tourist destinations. Call or visit one and ask what they have available to help you portray the scenery and culture of North America.

American Sign Language: Leonard G. Lane, *The Gallaudet Survival Guide to Signing* (Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1987) is available from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. or visit their website at <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/> and click on "view catalog." Other sign language books are available at most larger book stores.

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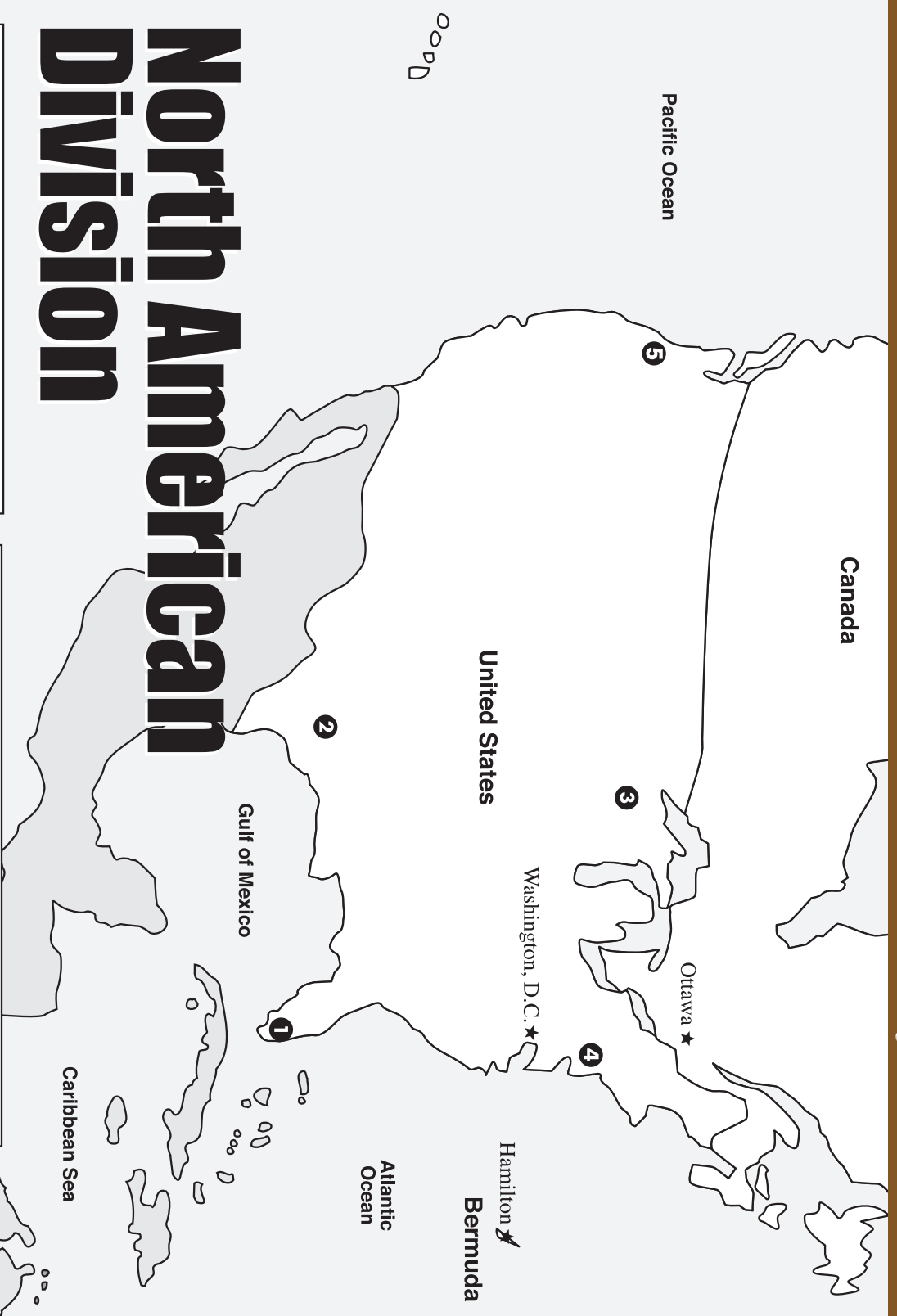
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Where legally possible, offerings will go to these projects, otherwise special arrangements will be made with the General Conference for distribution of funds based on the laws of the countries where these offerings are collected.



North American Division

Union	Churches	Companies	Membership	Population
Atlantic	301	73	95,563	33,879,392
Canada	330	80	52,955	31,637,000
Columbia	612	68	115,175	48,974,016
Lake	500	46	77,418	34,806,533
Mid-America	469	46	58,546	24,628,907
North Pacific	414	66	88,361	12,622,470
Pacific	658	87	208,918	46,763,382
Southern	989	91	213,956	55,445,582
Southwestern	546	56	81,154	34,456,718
Total	5,019	613	992,046	323,214,000

- Project**
- 1 Shalom Learning Center, Florida
 - 2 Extension television studios in Texas for Adventist media production
 - 3 Radio station in Minnesota to cover the area
 - 4 Improve the outreach of existing television station in New York City
 - 5 Develop a radio station in the metropolitan area of Portland, Oregon

www.adventistmission.org