

# God's Love Around the World



## *A Vacation Bible School Resource from Presbyterian World Mission*

### Greetings from Presbyterian World Mission!

As church folks know, Vacation Bible School is a uniquely fantastic time to teach children about God's love. Somehow at VBS, there seems to be so much more time for imagination and play. While I realize that you are probably well into planning your Vacation Bible School for this summer, we in Presbyterian World Mission want to share a few ideas for bringing an international mission aspect to your summer program.

Within these pages are ideas for teaching children about how God's love is present around the world. We have included craft ideas and songs, games and giving opportunities. We even have some of our mission co-workers ready to connect with your VBS group, whether through Skype, email or good old snail mail.

We hope that this resource will provide some helpful ideas for talking about international mission at your Vacation Bible School. In this season of imagination and possibility, how might the children of your church learn of God's love at work around the world?

Grace and peace to you,  
Rev. Christine Coy Fohr  
PC(U.S.A.) Consultant for Mission Leaders

### Invite a Mission Co-Worker to Your VBS!

Many of our Presbyterian mission workers working around the world work with children or have children themselves. Through the wonders of technology, it is now relatively easy to connect with people working on different continents around the world. Perhaps you might consider inviting a mission co-worker to be a part of your VBS!



Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather, mission workers in South Sudan, with their son

#### **What would that look like?**

Consider using Skype, Google hangout or other technologies to welcome a mission worker into your gathering time. You can project them onto a screen so that everyone can see and hear from them—like they were with you in the room! They could tell your group a story, teach them a song, or share how to say "God loves you" where they work. Likewise, they could be part of a rotation group, such as story time, music or even crafts.



Rev. Kari Nicewander and Joel DeJong, mission workers in Zambia, with their sons

#### **How can we connect with someone?**

Included on page 2 is a list of Presbyterian mission co-workers who would be interested in joining your VBS. Send them an email to determine 1) if they are available during the time you need, 2) what information they will share with your group, 3) how best to video chat with them and 4) a good date for practicing your conversation. Make sure that you share as much as possible with the mission worker about your expectations, and about what ages you expect to be in the audience.  
(Continued on page 2)

## Birthday Cards for Mish-Kids

Everyone loves to receive letters and cards in the mail! Imagine if you were the child of a missionary, living across the world from your friends and family in the US. Getting mail from people means even more then! The following missionary children (or mish-kids, as they're sometimes called) have summer birthdays. Consider having your VBS group make them birthday cards to send in in the mail!

Johnny (Joel DeJong & Kari Nicewander), Zambia, June 24

Alejandro, (Amanda Craft & Omar Chan), Mexico, June 29

Jathniel (Jeremy & Luta Garbat-Welch), Malawi, June 29

Ariella (Alethia & Ryan White), Germany, July 12

Simeon (Michael & Rachel Ludwig), Niger, July 18



For mailing addresses, email Christine Coy Fohr at [christine.coyfohr@pcusa.org](mailto:christine.coyfohr@pcusa.org).

## Invite a Mission Co-Worker to Your VBS, cont'd

(cont'd from p.1) Additionally, it never hurts to have a back-up plan just in case technology doesn't work. Have a backup phone number for the mission co-workers, project a picture of them onto a screen, or tape your practice conversation to play, just in case!

### Mission Co-Workers to Contact

Jenny Bent & Mark Hare	Haiti & Dominican Republic	jenmc109@yahoo.com; haremark@yahoo.com
Amanda Craft	Mexico & Guatemala	amanda.craft@pcusa.org
Joel DeJong & Kari Nicewander	Zambia	jdejong@jdesign.com; karinicewander@gmail.com
Rebecca & Josh	Security country	bruce.whearty@pcusa.org
Jed Koball	Peru	jedhawkes@gmail.com
Nancy McGaughey	South Sudan	nemcgaughey1149@gmail.com
Jim & Jodi McGill	Malawi	mcgill@africa-online.net
Nancy Smith-Mather & Shelvis Smith-Mather	South Sudan	nancy.smith-mather@pcusa.org shelvis.smith-mather@pcusa.org
Brenda Stelle & Steve Stelle	Ethiopia	brenda.stelle@pcusa.org; stephen.stelle@pcusa.org
Kate Taber	Israel/Palestine	revkatetaber@outlook.com
Richard & Debbie Welch	Guatemala	dwelch2k@gmail.com
Ryan White & Alethia White	Germany	white.ryan.a@gmail.com alethia.c.white@gmail.com
Claire Zuhosky	Niger	cez108@hotmail.com

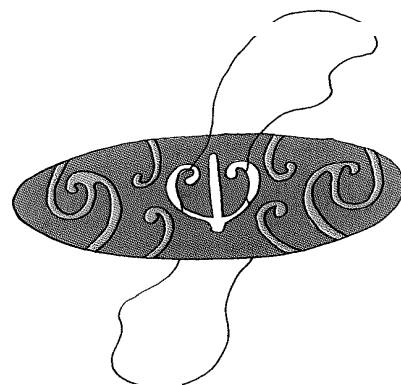
To learn about these mission co-workers, visit [pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://pcusa.org/missionconnections).

## Koru Huhu (Whizzer) from New Zealand

*The Maori people are the native people of New Zealand. They make this toy out of wood. You can decorate yours with traditional Maori colors of red, black and white.*

### Materials

Card stock or cardboard  
Hole punch or pencil  
Ruler  
String  
Scissors  
Red and black markers



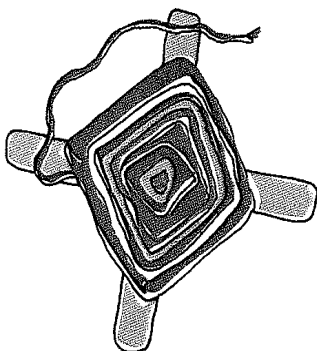
Cut out a football shaped piece from the cardboard, about 6 inches long and 3 inches wide. Decorate it with markers. Use a hole punch or pencil to punch out two small holes in the center. Cut a 2 1/2 foot piece of string. Thread the string through one hole and out the other. Tie the ends together in a knot. Slide the cardboard toward the center of the string. Put one or two fingers inside each of the loops on either side. Twirl the string, winding up the koru huhu. As it unwinds, move your hands in and out. Listen for the humming sound it makes!

## God's Eye from Mexico (Ojo de Dios)

*In Mexico, the God's Eye is a reminder that God is always near.*

### Materials

2 popsicle sticks  
Yarn or ribbon  
Scissors  
Glue (optional)



Cross the two sticks at the center and glue them together. Tie the yarn onto the sticks where they cross at the center.

Starting where the sticks come together, put the end of the yarn under one of the sticks and wrap it around, going under and over the top of the stick. Going clockwise, wind the string across to the next stick. Wrap the yarn one time around that stick, and then over the top of the next stick. Wind it under and over to the next stick, and so on. Keep going around and around, winding over and under. If you want to change colors, cut the yarn from the reel and tie another color of yarn to it. Continue wrapping the yarn from stick to stick until about 1/2 inch of the ends of the sticks are showing. Cut the yarn from the reel, leaving enough yarn to create a knot around the next stick. Tie the yarn to the last stick.

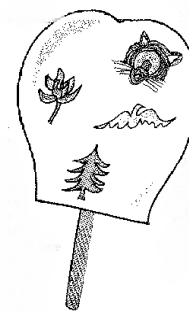
## Paper Fan from Korea

*Long ago, Korean people would give each other fans as a symbol of friendship. These fans were made from paper and decorated with pictures that had special meaning, called symbols.*

*Some Korean symbols and their meanings are: pine tree—long time; tiger—courage; phoenix (an imaginary bird)—good future; lotus flower—happiness; dragon—protection and rain for the crops.*

### Materials

Template for fan  
Old file folders or cardboard  
Scissors  
Markers or crayons  
Glue  
Craft sticks  
Pencil  
Paper



Using the template, trace the fan shape onto a file folder or piece of cardboard. Cut out the fan. Decorate both sides of your fan with symbols like the ones shown here or ones that are important to you, like a cross, a house, a family or your church. Glue a craft stick to the bottom of the fan. Think of someone special you would like to give your fan to, or make two so that you can share a matching fan with a friend. Wave your new fan and enjoy the breeze!

## Give

Each day, have your children return home with assignments for giving. For example:

- Count the number of light bulbs in your house. Give 5 cents for every light bulb you find.
- Count all of the blankets you have in your house. Give 10 cents for each one.
- Look on a map and count how many countries there are in South America. Put 15 cents in the offering for every country you find.



Each morning, take up the offering and give it to a local or international mission, or a mission worker you connect with. To give to support Presbyterian World Mission, visit [www.presbyterianmission.org/supportwm](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/supportwm).

## Music

### Nnung Yay Dah from Northern Ghana (traditional Dagbani)

Teach your group this song. It means "I believe, I believe, My Mother's child, I believe!" For pronunciation, try this: Nnung = *noong*; M Ma Bia = *M Ma Bee-ah*

G  
NNung Yay Dah

C  
NNung Yay Dah Oh - oh

D  
NNung Yay Dah M Ma Bi - a,

G  
NNung Yay Dah

Once you've got the song, form a circle and have your group walk around while singing. Fill milk jugs or plastic Easter eggs with beans to make shakers for the children to use.

## Game

### Catch the Chicks from Taiwan

You will need a group of eight or more to play this game.

Decide on a playing area and set the boundaries. Choose one person to be the mother hen. Choose another person to be the eagle. Everyone else will be baby chicks. The chicks line up behind the hen and put their hands on the waist of the person in front of them. The eagle tries to catch, or tag, a chick, while the hen tries to protect the chicks. When the eagle catches a chick, that chick becomes the new eagle. Take turns being the hen so no one gets too tired!

