

Helping Children Pray ...

for countries

Use these tools to aid children as they pray for the needs of specific countries.

- Outline of a country — Make an outline of the country shape on the floor using masking tape or string. Have children stand inside the shape as they pray.
- Flags — Have children draw and color a flag from a specific country, then pray for that nation.
- Globes or maps — Have children locate a specific country and put their hand on it as they pray.
- Inflatable globe — Have children toss the globe to one another. Ask them to pray for the country their hand covers as they catch the globe.
- Jigsaw world map — Use a world jigsaw puzzle or create your own from a map. Have each child choose a piece, add it to the puzzle and pray for the country or area it represents.
- Newspapers — Pray for world needs found in the headlines.
- Food — After sampling a meal or foods from one specific country, pray for the needs of that area.

Excellent resources to research needs of specific countries include:

- *Missions Alive!* children's curriculum (download at www.fmwm.org/resources/index/children_resources.php)
- *Window on the World*, by Daphne Spraggett with Jill Johnstone (Paternoster Lifestyle) 2001
- *From Arapesh to Zuni*, by Karen Lewis (Wycliffe) 1986
- *From Akebu to Zapotec*, by June Hatersmith (Wycliffe) 2002
- Library resources
- The Internet

for missionaries

- Read newsletters to know how to pray specifically for missionaries supported by your church or conference. (Current newsletters can be found on missionary pages at www.fmwm.org.)
- Help each child make a photo prayer album with one page for each day of the week.
- Use missionary prayer cards or pictures on each page, praying for them and the people of that nation that day.
- Place missionary prayer cards in a bag. Have the children draw out one and pray for that missionary.

in creative ways

- Use a prayer wall for children to write out their prayers for missionaries or people around the world. A chalkboard, white board or big sheets of paper can be used for this.
- Decorate stations to represent different prayer needs. Have the children pray individually or in pairs as they move from station to station.
- Make a prayer chain. Write on each link the name of the person/s or place/s prayed for that day. Add links to the chain each time the children pray.
- Encourage the children to think of one thing about themselves they have in common with other children around the world. (For example: I wear glasses, or I am 10 years old.) Have them pray for others who share this characteristic.
- Look at the labels on clothes and shoes worn by each child in class. Pray for the nations where the clothes were made.
- Collect a number of large cardboard boxes to demonstrate the only kind of shelter available to many people around the world. Let the children build a shelter from the boxes and lead them in praying for those around the world who do not have adequate shelter, food or clothing.