

CHILDREN WITH A MISSION

WITH A



MISSION

Kids Impacting the World for Christ

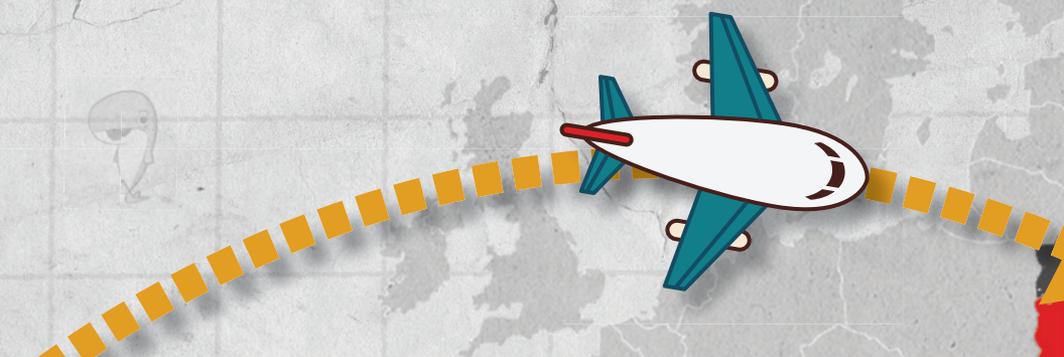


go to

FORMER
SOVIET
UNION



FEBRUARY 2020



UKRAINE

Ready to explore the Former Soviet Union? First stop, Ukraine—a huge, flat country almost the size of Texas.

Imagine if you could work only for the government, and instead of money, they gave you your house and food? That's what happened in countries controlled by the Former Soviet Union, like Ukraine. When the Soviet Union disappeared 30 years ago, countries like Ukraine became very poor because the government wasn't helping them anymore.

People you meet tell you life is still hard, but it's better. They invite you over for a meal of borscht, a thick vegetable soup with sour cream on top. They give you slippers to wear in the house instead of your shoes! You notice that Ukrainians are proud of their traditions, like their embroidered clothing and lively music. But sadly, many Ukrainians also think of God as a tradition instead of believing in Jesus for salvation. Many other Ukrainians do not believe in God at all, because that's what the Soviet Union taught.

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy" Psalm 16:11 (ESV)





Ukraine flag



CAPITAL:

Kyiv

LANGUAGE:

Ukrainian

SYMBOL:



Trident





FUN FACT! ✓

Did you know that “Carol of the Bells” comes from a Ukrainian New Year’s song called “The Little Swallow?”

GOD'S WORK

Vitalina* first heard about Jesus Christ when a missionary's daughter joined her class. But later Vitalina moved to the city to become a kindergarten teacher and forgot all about it.

When she returned home for a visit, her older sister told her Christians were holding a summer camp in their town. They were surprised to see that the young people there enjoyed life without smoking or drinking. "It was this that made a change in my heart," Vitalina said. On the last day of camp, Vitalina and her sister accepted Jesus Christ. God freed Vitalina from swearing; also from smoking—she no longer wanted to. "It is God's miracle in my life," Vitalina said.

When she returned to the city, Vitalina felt that God wanted her to do something else. She prayed with her pastor for God to guide her. Before long, a friend invited her to a missionary Bible school. Now she is working as a native missionary to tell people about Jesus!

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for young people in Ukraine to accept Jesus as their Savior.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Save up 50 cents this week to help bring the gospel to children who have never heard about Jesus before.

**Name changed for security*



POP QUIZ!

At the summer camp, Vitalina saw something that helped open her heart to Jesus.

Q: What did she see?

A: She saw young people enjoying life without smoking or drinking.



Congratulations, you've now visited Ukraine!
Remember to stamp your passport!



ARMENIA

Swooping over the Black Sea, we reach the tiny country of Armenia, smaller than Maryland. Everywhere mountains poke up, and five were volcanoes!

We stop first at the busy capital of Yerevan. You immediately understand why it's called the "Pink City"—many buildings are built from pinkish-orange volcanic rock. You watch a skilled baker creating "lavash," a flatbread made of just flour, water and salt. She rolls the dough as thin and large as a pillowcase; then reaches into a hole in the floor (an oven) and sticks it onto the side of the oven to bake!

Mostly Armenians live in Armenia, but traveling into the rolling, green countryside, you spot several small Yazidi villages. Yazidis fled to Armenia after people tried to kill them because of their religion. Armenians you meet tell you Armenia is the oldest Christian country in the world. But many believe they must do good to be saved, instead of simply believing in Jesus who died to pay for their sins.

"... it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)





Armenia flag



CAPITAL:

Yerevan

LANGUAGE:

Armenian

SYMBOL:



Mount
Ararat



GOD'S WORK

When Amar* heard about Christians preaching about Jesus in his Yazidi village, he mocked them and told everyone their religion was nonsense. He planned to beat them up. But when they arrived, they started singing about Jesus in his own language. Surprised and confused, he listened in a trance.

Afterward, Amar decided to hear the preacher Gavril* again to find something to accuse him of. But then he thought, "What if Christianity is the true religion?" He decided if Gavril was kind to him, he wouldn't challenge him anymore.

As soon as he entered the Sunday meeting, Gavril kindly invited Amar to sit with him. As he sat, Amar felt God's supernatural power. Instead of preaching, Gavril told how God had freed him from sin and drinking. Amar prayed, "God, if you are real and brought changes in Gavril's life, please help me love my sisters and stop swearing." Amar gave his life to Jesus, and Jesus changed him. "I am so glad and grateful to Him," Amar said.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Yazidis and Armenians in Armenia to know Jesus as their Savior.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Each time you eat bread this week, think of children who need to hear the gospel and save up five cents to help.

**Name changed for security*

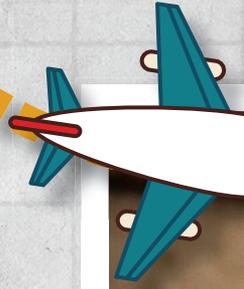


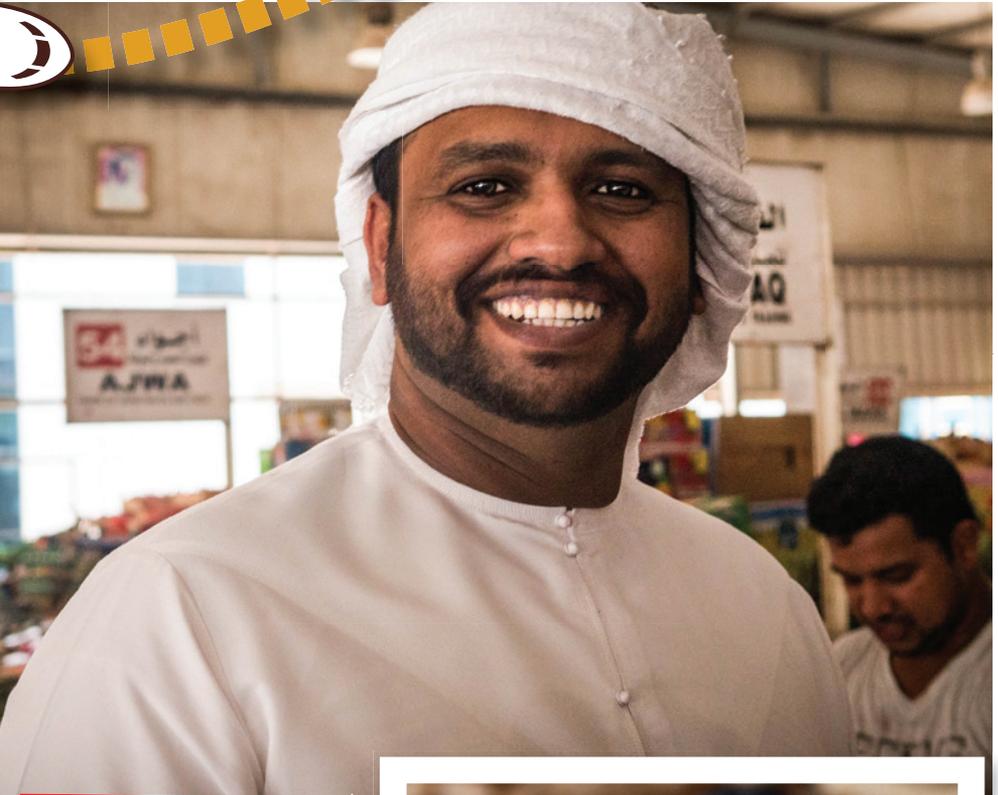
POP QUIZ!

Amar planned to beat up the Christians, but when he saw them, he forgot his plan.

Q: What were they doing?

A: Singing about Jesus in his language.





FUN FACT! ✓

Every kid in Armenia has to take chess classes in school! Armenians are some of the world's best chess players.



Congratulations, You've now visited Armenia!
Don't forget to stamp your passport!



TURKMENISTAN

Winging east over the Caspian Sea, we near the desert country of Turkmenistan, a little larger than California. The plane lands at the falcon-shaped Ashgabat International Airport and you step into the white marble capital of Ashgabat, full of fountains and golden statues of Turkmenistan's presidents. But although the city looks rich, many Turkmen are very poor.

In desert villages of mud brick houses where half the country's people live, you meet people raising sheep, goats and camels. They tell you they sometimes wait hours in line to buy flour, sugar or rice from government stores. But you are their guest! They spread out a meal of pilaf (rice and meat with vegetables), flatbread, tea, chal (fermented camel's milk) and melon, which Turkmenistan has a national holiday for!

Most Turkmen are Muslim—very few have heard the gospel. And even though Christians are persecuted, God is helping native missionaries to bravely share the good news of Jesus.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" Matthew 5:44 (NIV)





Turkmenistan flag

 **CAPITAL:**
Ashgabat

LANGUAGE:
Turkmen

SYMBOL:
 The Akhal-Teke horse





FUN FACT!

The coats of Turkmenistan's rare Akhal-Teke horses shine like metal.



GOD'S WORK

In one Turkmen village, two sisters snuck into a secret meeting with other believers. They had to be very careful, because their father had forbidden them to believe, to read Indzhil (the Turkmen translation of the New Testament), or to meet with other believers. He had even beaten them up before.

But one day he became very sick with liver problems. The doctors did everything they could, but eventually they gave up and let him go home to die. His daughters and the other believers of the village prayed and fasted hard for him. On the last day of the fast, they walked to his house to pray for him. He was lying in bed, too weak to get up.

As they prayed, he whispered, "God of my daughter, help me..." After the prayer ended, he was miraculously healed! He went to the believers' next meeting and accepted Jesus. The doors of his house that were once shut to Christ are now wide open!

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Turkmen to hear the gospel and for protection for persecuted believers.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Ask God to help you decide how much to give this week to help children who haven't heard the gospel.



POP QUIZ!

The two daughters' father persecuted them when they believed in Jesus.

Q: But how did God treat the father when they prayed and he asked for help?

A: He healed him.



Hooray, you have toured Turkmenistan! Stamp your passport before you board the next flight!



KYRGYZSTAN

Wind buffets the plane as we soar over Kyrgyzstan, a country covered in snow-capped mountains. If you had x-ray vision, you'd see gold veins cutting through the hills. One mine has produced over 300 tons of gold! But even so, many people in Kyrgyzstan are poor. Several people tell you that their father, brother or sister is working in Russia to send money home to their family.

You enjoy walking through the capital of Bishkek, where the streets are lined with trees! Most of Kyrgyzstan's people live in the country, though. Before the Former Soviet Union, they lived as nomads and herded livestock like sheep or yaks. They traveled on horseback from mountain villages in the winter to grassy valleys in the summer, carrying their homes with them—round tents called yurts. Today some still live as nomads. If you visited, they would offer you “kumis,” fermented horse milk!

Most people in Kyrgyzstan believe in Islam—they desperately need to hear the good news that Jesus came to save them.

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)





Kyrgyzstan flag

 **CAPITAL:**
Bishkek

LANGUAGE:
Kyrgyz and Russian

SYMBOL:
 White falcon

GOD'S WORK

Aybek's* family heard the good news of Jesus when native missionaries visited his house. Their message was simple but powerful because they came sincerely with kindness and love. The family decided to follow Jesus.

Nothing in a village stays hidden for long! Aybek's neighbors soon noticed a change. The family had stopped arguing, Aybek had stopped drinking, and he and his wife treated their children gently. A Muslim leader noticed that Aybek wasn't worshipping at the Muslim mosque anymore and tried to convince Aybek that Islam was true. But Aybek knew God's truth now!

The village grew angry. They beat Aybek, poisoned their cow, stole their sheep, and lit their house on fire! Aybek decided to flee. They joined a church in the city where Christians loved and helped them—a true family. Aybek studies at Bible school and travels back to his village to share the gospel. Five families have received the message of Christ! Aybek is praying for a church to start in his village.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray that God would help native missionaries bring the good news of Jesus to villages in Kyrgyzstan.

GIVING CHALLENGE

Imagine if your dad worked in another country and you couldn't see him! Each time he comes home this week, save up 10 cents to help children who may be poor like those in Kyrgyzstan.

**Name changed for security*



POP QUIZ!

Aybek's village treated him cruelly when he would not return to Islam.

Q: How does Aybek treat them now?

A: He visits them to bring them the gospel.





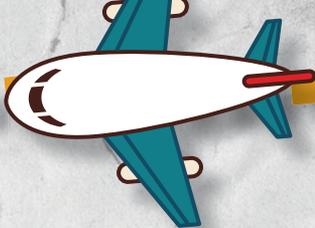
FUN FACT! ✓

For centuries, Kyrgyz nomads have trained giant golden eagles to hunt for them. They are strong enough to hunt a wolf!



WOW, You have finished visiting Kyrgyzstan! Make sure to stamp your passport before boarding your next flight!

FUN TIME!



**Can you remember each country's capital?
Draw a line matching the capital to its country!**

(Hint: the capital is on each country page.)

CAPITAL



Yerevan



Ashgabat



Bishkek



Kyiv

COUNTRIES



Ukraine



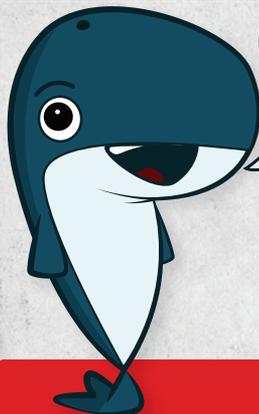
Armenia



Kyrgyzstan



Turkmenistan

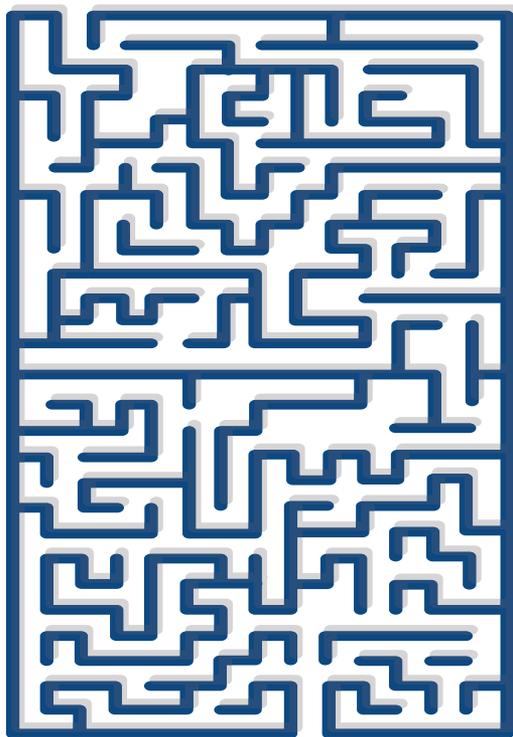
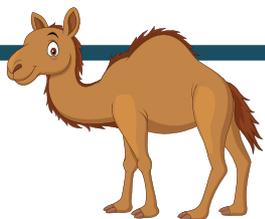


*Hi I am Wally!
I appear four times this month!
Can you find me?*

A: 1. Yerevan - Armenia, Ashgabat - Turkmenistan,
Bishkek - Kyrgyzstan, Kyiv - Ukraine.
2. Wally is on pages 1, 9, 11, and 13.



Help the thirsty camel reach the oasis!



Did you know
camels can
drink 30
gallons of
water at
a time?

CHILDREN WITH A MISSION



Name

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MISSION

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