



River of Life News

Issue No. 2

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Too Much Water?

On day 1 of Vacation Bible School, we talked about how water is everywhere and that we need water to live. But what happens when there is *too much* water? A flood. Have you ever seen pictures of floods? There has been a lot of flooding in our country this year, in the Midwest. We want to help those people recover. We read of a flood in the Bible, too, only this flood was no accident! It came because of our sin. The good news is that God promised never to send a flood like that again - now He deals with our sin a different way, with a different water. Do you remember what that is?

SPECIAL OFFERING

Thank you for your pennies today, and good job bringing them! Don't forget that tomorrow is **nickel day**!

Yesterday we talked about the people of Haiti. The island of Haiti is in the Caribbean Ocean, just south of our country, so not too far away. Most of the people in Haiti are very poor and so cannot afford books to read. Over half are mixed up with something called "voodoo," which is a very dangerous false religion. So the children of Haiti need our help to be able to learn about Jesus! *Maybe* you will decide to send the offerings we gather there, to help them.

I think it's going to be a hard decision, trying to decide who to help!

Parents' Column

Yesterday we talked about how God made water and all things as part of His creation. He also made you and me. That's important. We're not an accident of time and chance - God made us each with value and purpose and meaning. Your children, too! How precious they are to Him. We told them that today, too, and will everyday!

Every child received a "passport" on the first day of VBS. Ask your child about it. What is it for? What does it tell them?



Remember to bring nickels tomorrow!





The Flood

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth..

~ Genesis 9:12-13

The whole world had turned against God. Only *one family* believed. So God sent a great flood to start over again. That can be a scary story! For will God destroy me when I sin? The answer is no! God promised He would never do that again, and everytime we see a rainbow we remember that promise. But this story reminds us that sin is serious and something we should never take lightly.

The good news is that God uses another water now to destroy not us, but the sin *in* us! The water of baptism. So everytime you see someone baptized, or everytime you look at a baptismal font, you can remember the promise He made to you when you were baptized - that you are His child and He forgives you all your sin. God does that because He sent His Son to take our punishment for us, on the cross. Jesus was destroyed in the "flood" of sin on the cross, so that we will never be!

The Baltic States

(Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)

These three countries border the Baltic Sea, which is where they get their name, The Baltic States. But they don't have to worry about flooding from the water. They were "flooded" by an enemy army from a country called the Soviet Union that came in and took over their countries. When the Soviet Union took over, they said that no one could be Christians anymore. If you were, you would be punished. You would lose your job, you couldn't go to college, you could even be sent to jail. This lasted for about 70 years! Now, the Soviet Union does not exist anymore, but there are still many children who don't know about Jesus because their parents don't know Jesus and so were not able to teach them! They are *thirsty* for the Word of God and to learn about his love and forgiveness!



Maybe you will choose the Baltic States as the place to send your offering, to help provide books and Sunday School materials to teach the children there. They really need your help, too, just like the children of Haiti. It's going to be a hard choice!