



# River of Life News

Issue No. 4

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## Water to the Rescue Again!

Without water to drink, we die. Without rain to water the earth and the plants, we would die of starvation and not have enough oxygen to breathe. We need water to bathe and shower to stay healthy and disease free. The people in Asia need the monsoon season to grow their crops. Water is so important to us and our life . . . and for our spiritual lives as well. The water of baptism washes us clean from our sin. Jesus is the living water we need for eternal life. Without Him, we could not live. Today we heard about an animal that needs water to live - a fish. God used that fish to help the people in a city called Nineveh, for He wanted to save them. And He did! Thanks to a fish. :-)

## SPECIAL OFFERING UPDATE

One more day to go! So far your pennies, nickels, and dimes have filled our vase about halfway. Quarters are the biggest coin, both in value and in size, so maybe tomorrow we can get a lot closer to the top! But this I know - because of your generosity, a lot of children will be helped and learn about Jesus. Great job!

So far we've learned about a tiny country (Haiti) and a very large country (Russia). Countries that are cold (the Baltic States) and one that is very hot (The Sudan). Yet all the children of these countries are thirsty! Thirsty to learn about Jesus. How blessed we are to be able to help them. We have one more day! How much do you think we will raise? How many books will we be able to provide?

## *Parents' Column*

I've been very impressed with how much the children have learned this week! Their teachers are doing an excellent job. They've also had a lot of fun, trying to get their passports stamped with as many stamps as possible, and also with the games and crafts. I hope they have shared with you all they have done and learned. But most important they have learned how much Jesus loves them. If they remember nothing else, that is enough. For it is the love of Jesus for us and the forgiveness of our sins that makes all the difference in the world!



*Remember to bring quarters tomorrow!*





# Jonah

*So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. . . . And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

~ Jonah 1:15, 17

God wanted Jonah to be His prophet, to go and call the people of a city named Nineveh to repent of their sins and evils. But Jonah didn't think that was a very good idea at all! In fact, Jonah thought God was wrong - that the people of Nineveh did not deserve God's forgiveness. So Jonah ran away from God. He got into a boat and sailed the opposite direction from Nineveh.

But God knew where He was. So He caused a great storm to come upon the sea until the men of the ship threw Jonah overboard. Then God had a great fish swallow Jonah because He didn't want Jonah to die - He wanted Jonah to repent himself and then go preach to the people of Nineveh. So God used the water of the sea and a fish that He created that lived in that water to help the people of Nineveh. It worked! The people of Nineveh repented and were saved.

Jonah gives us a picture of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus came to win the forgiveness of sins for us by His death and the cross and His resurrection from the dead. And in between, being swallowed up by death and the grave for three days, just like Jonah. But also just like Jonah, God's plan worked! Because of Jesus, we have forgiveness, life, and salvation. So don't run away from God like Jonah did. Repent of your sin and rejoice in the love and forgiveness He has for you!

## Russia

Russia is one of the largest countries in the world; it is also one of the thirstiest! For like the Baltic States that we learned about on Tuesday, the people of Russia were under the control of the Soviet Union for 70 years, during which Christians were punished severely. One church in St. Petersburg was even converted into a swimming pool! The government also created Sunday activities that the children were required to attend, so they could not go to church. If the children did not go, they would be barred from school and could not get a job. So many children were forced away from the church in this way! Now their children need to learn about Jesus.



You can help! Maybe you will decide to send your offerings to help the children of Russia. Since Russia is such a big country, lots of books and materials are needed.