

# “Hey Kids, Let’s Talk !”

Do you have a comment or question about missions or about something you read in this issue? **Email [elinor.young@worldteam.org](mailto:elinor.young@worldteam.org)**  
Or **send a letter** to:



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Will this girl, and others like her in Central Asia, hear the Good News about Jesus as they grow up? Pray that they will!

**GC KIDS** is for children ages about 9 to 13. It aims to **nurture a passion for missions** that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. (For multiple copies see the information below.)

For **suggestions, ideas or submissions**, send postal mail via the address below or email [elinor.young@worldteam.org](mailto:elinor.young@worldteam.org).

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Issue 17: Central Asia

## Where "Missionaries" Can't Go

Some countries don't allow people to come in as missionaries. They don't want even their own citizens to tell people about Jesus, but not many can do that because they haven't heard the Gospel themselves. How can they, if no one is allowed to tell them?

Jesus told us to help people in EVERY nation to be His disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20) So what can we do when countries say "No missionaries?" We can go as business people, teachers, development workers or other things that aren't called missionary jobs but still give us time and contact with people so we can tell them about Christ.

That's what Jesus' workers do in Central Asia. Read about it in this issue of GC Kids.



## Stories from Central Asia:

### Papa's Pizza

*Have* you ever heard of "Papa's Pizza?" Not "Papa John's Pizza," but simply "Papa's Pizza?" My husband and I started a pizza business in Central Asia. We named it "Papa's Pizza" after our Heavenly Father who is really the true

owner of the business. Do you like pizza? Can you get good pizza in the country where you live? Where we live, the people make a type of pizza, but it's not like the pizza we eat in America. Sometimes people here put corn on the pizza. I like pepperoni better.

"Papa's Pizza" delivers fresh, hot pizza to an American school in our Central Asian country once a week for lunch. The American school does not have a cafeteria. Every day the students must bring their lunches from home. This gets to be boring for the kids and a lot of work for the parents. So, every Tuesday is pizza day at the school. Both the kids and parents love it! Our business employs a local couple, Aibek and Nasiba, who make the pizzas and deliver them. People here are poor and need work. "Papa's Pizza" provides them with a job.

This past year, Aibek and Nasiba's thirteen year old son, Ascar, became very sick. He was in the hospital for many months and almost died. "Papa's Pizza" was able to help by donating money to help pay his hospital bills. Now he is healthy again and even helps us with the pizza business! God has blessed the business and uses it to let the people in this country know about Him. We are happy to be the care takers of "Papa's Pizza" and to enjoy real American pepperoni pizza too! ■

"Papa's Pizza" was written by a worker in a Central Asian country where people have to be very careful talking about Jesus. That is true in most Central Asian nations. For example, read the following story:

## Standing Firm in a Muslim Land



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*Ruth*, a 10-year-old Christian, lives in a country in Central Asia. She is shown in the photo with a worker from The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM). The worker is sharing notes with Ruth from Christians who are praying for her. Ruth speaks Russian and a little bit of three other languages. Her favorite game is hopscotch, and she loves to sing and read.

Ruth's father is the pastor of a church that meets in Ruth's house. Most of the people in Ruth's town are Muslims. Some of them learned the truth about Jesus from Ruth's family. But other Muslims were angry when the church began to grow.

Very late one night, someone started a fire in Ruth's backyard. They set the fire on purpose. Whoever started it was probably trying to stop Ruth's father from preaching the truth.

The fire spread to the house church, and then it was put out. In the morning, church members began to rebuild the church and repair the damage.

The New Living Translation says those verses this way:

**"Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me."**



## Think About It

Jesus said that when people do not know about him, it is like they are living in d\_\_\_\_\_.

What should we who know the Lord do about that?

What is it like when you can't see in a dark room?

- \_\_\_ happy
- \_\_\_ scary
- \_\_\_ can walk straight
- \_\_\_ can't walk right
- \_\_\_ wish it was light
- \_\_\_ want it to stay dark

Jesus might want you to one day take the light of the Gospel to Central Asia. Write a prayer about that here:

When people do know Jesus, it is like they are living in l\_\_\_\_\_.

In Central Asia, how many people know about Jesus in a city the size of yours? (See the note on top of page 6.)



Central Asia has the lowest percentage of Christian believers of any place in the world. Only .0037% of the people know Jesus. That means not quite four believers in 100,000 people. But GOOD NEWS! In Central Asia, new church planting movements are starting among many people groups.

## The Great Commission



The Apostle Paul was once arrested and put on trial for preaching about Jesus. Paul defended himself by telling what Jesus had told him to do when he was saved. Jesus had told Paul:

**“I (Jesus) am sending you to them (the Gentiles) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:17-18, NIV)**

### Standing Firm for Christ at school

The house church wasn't the only place where Ruth's family was persecuted for their faith. Ruth's schoolteacher hit her just because she is a Christian. For the same reason, Ruth's brother and sister get poor grades, even when they do good work. When Ruth told friends at school about Jesus, they cursed at her.

Workers from VOM asked Ruth what her favorite Bible story is. Ruth answered, “The story of Noah.” When a worker asked her why, here is what she said: “Noah was alone when he trusted in God. It took him a long time to build his boat. People told him he was crazy and had a broken mind. He continued to tell the truth and to tell them to believe in God. He was alone, but he was victorious. He was saved.”

#### Why do you suppose Ruth likes the story of Noah?

As Ruth follows Christ at school, she may sometimes feel alone like Noah. But she is not alone. Many Christians in Central Asia are also persecuted for their faith.

Will you pray for Ruth and other Central Asian Christians? When VOM workers asked Ruth her prayer requests, she answered, “Pray that everything will be good for our church, our pastors, and our prayer meetings.”

Listen to Ruth sing a song in her language at [www.kidsofcourage.com/images/stories/RuthGulistan.wma](http://www.kidsofcourage.com/images/stories/RuthGulistan.wma).

Here is what the words to Ruth's song mean in English:

You don't need to look for a friend  
 You don't have to choose a friend.  
 A friend came to me.  
 This is a real friend.  
 A friend who is different from  
 anybody else.

#### Who do you think Ruth's friend might be?

In John 15:14-15, Jesus said: “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” Jesus is a friend to His followers, and He loves to communicate with us as a friend. ■



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The story “Standing Firm In a Muslim Land” is used by permission: The Voice of the Martyrs, [www.KidsofCourage.com](http://www.KidsofCourage.com). Click on “Archives” and select “Featured Stories.”



## Traditional Uzbek Clothing



Central Asia is usually described as at least the countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Often other countries in the area are also included as part of Central Asia.

### "MY NAME IS" IN UZBEK

How to spell it:  
Mening ismim \_\_\_\_\_.

How to Say It:  
meh-NING ihs-MOOM (The "oo" is pronounced as the "oo" in "good.")



(Color me.)