

"Hey Kids, Remember..."



The people who are called the Roma, Romani or Gypsies live all around the world. They don't have their own country, but they do have their own language and culture. Most do not know Jesus. Will you pray that Christians will take the Gospel to them?

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS 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.

Contact editor at: elinor.young@worldteam.org.

GC Kids is a service of **World Team**, "Glorifying God by
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Issue 19: The Roma

God Loves All

God is different
from people.
Sometimes people
can be very cruel.
They can treat
badly people who
don't look or talk
like them. But God
loves all people.

In fact, God loves
all the kinds of
people in the
world so much
that He wants
them to join him in
Heaven! Think
about that as you
read this issue of
GC Kids.

John 3:16

**"For God so loved
the world, that He
gave His only
begotten Son, and
whoever believes in
Him will not perish
but have
everlasting life"**



God Loves The Roma, too!

Ivan is Roma, a people often looked
down upon around the world. They
are also know as Gypsies. They have
superstitious religious beliefs rooted in
Hinduism. Known mostly as uneducated,
unmotivated and living a rough wild life,
the Roma are often accused of thievery
and other bad behavior. This used to
describe Ivan.

Ivan didn't know his father growing up.
Once, Ivan found his father, but his father
told Ivan he had no sons and said, "Leave,
and never come back." So Ivan grew up on
the streets. He learned to drink alcohol at a
very young age.

Ivan grew up in a small city, Vlasim, in
the Czech Republic.

Most young people in that country at that time were under pressure to join the Communist Party, but the communists did not want Ivan. After all, they thought, he was Roma. They thought the Roma were worthless and barely human.

Ivan has lived in Vlasim all his life. So has Jana, his wife. But before they met, one New Year's Eve, eighteen and drunk — very drunk— somehow Ivan ended up at a Christian youth group meeting where Jana and her sister were. Jana was a pretty, blond Czech girl, seventeen and in school.

Jana and her older sister, Marta, grew up in a true Christian home, where they read the Bible and prayed together.

Some months earlier, Jana borrowed from a friend a book called, "The Day Jesus Died." This book was from the public library, which was part of the communist controlled government. Communists did not like Christianity. How was this book allowed in the collection of a communist controlled library? Was it planted there deliberately to see who might be interested in reading books like that? Maybe.

All we know is that Jana was accused of being against the government, questioned, and



humiliated in front of her classmates. She was asked about her family's religious beliefs, and her own. This was a very difficult time for her. Jana was told she would have to go to Leningrad for further "training." (To erase her interest in Christianity.) By God's grace, though, this did not happen.

Jana and Marta worked together in the Christian youth group even though they lived under the threat of being ill-treated by the communist party. They had a love and burden for people who didn't know Christ. They had seen God work in their parents' lives, and in their own.

The night Ivan showed up drunk at the Christian youth group, Jana took him in to their group and cared for him. The youth group helped get him sober. Ivan soon saw a difference in

Think About It

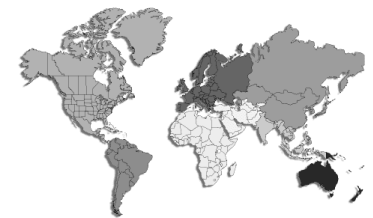
Look at the verse at the bottom of page 6 (1 Chronicles 16:23-24) and fill in the blanks below:

Sing to the Lord, _____
the earth;
proclaim his
_____ day after
day.
Declare his _____
among the
_____,
his marvelous deeds
among _____ peoples.

These verses are part of the song of thanks of King David after he made a special place to put God's important box of remembrance, the Ark of the Covenant. That was about 1000 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But it sounds very much like what Jesus told us in Matthew 28:19-20. What was that? Look up those verses and write in your own words what Jesus told us to do:

Those verses in Matthew are usually what is called "The Great Commission," but all through the Bible God tells us to teach all people of all nations about Him. The Great Commission is in all books of the Bible!

You can't go to all the nations, but you CAN go to at least one group of people who don't know about Jesus yet. Are you willing to do that?





The Great Commission

1 Chronicles 16:23-24
(NIV)

Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.



these people who took him in, cared for him, and loved him. Tired of his old life, Ivan turned away from his sin and received Christ as his Savior and Lord. To see if his new faith in Jesus was real, Ivan tried to drink alcohol again but didn't like it anymore. He tried the dance parlor but he didn't like that anymore, either. He only wanted more of Christ and the Bible.

Eventually, Jana and Ivan fell in love. They were married only a few months before the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe.

Life for them has not been easy. Jana's parents were against their marriage from the beginning, and still are. Even though Jana's parents are Christians, their old attitudes about the Roma remain. They do not like that Jana married a Roma. However, Ivan and Jana constantly show

Christ's love as they regularly go to her elderly parents' home to cook, clean and care for them.

Ivan and Jana enjoy and love each other. God has helped Ivan build a profitable construction business. Ivan and Jana also give much of their time to serve the Lord, especially among the Roma people. They are a big help to a Roma church planting team in the Czech Republic and in the rest of Eastern Europe. They want the Roma people to know Christ as Savior, living as God's people, free from their old way of life. ■

As told by Ivan and Jana, and translated by missionaries Tom and Dora Becker, with permission of Ivan and Jana.

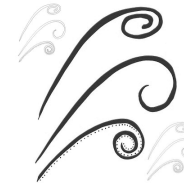
Retold and written by World Team missionary, Don Ropp.



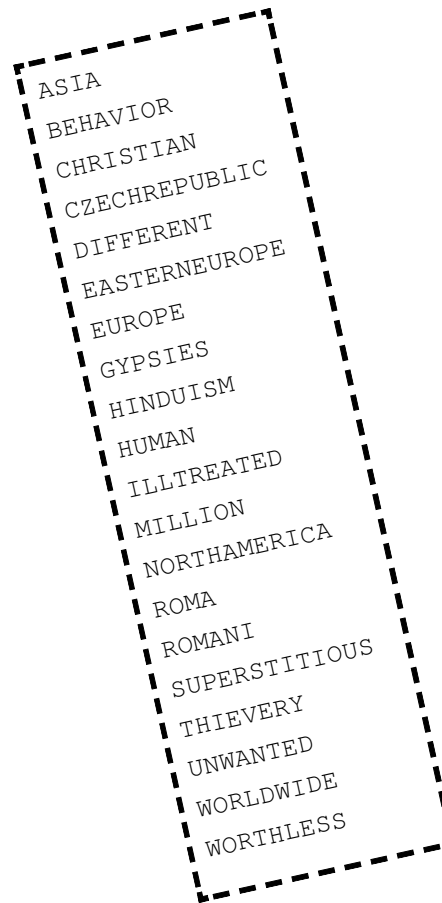
Some Roma children may live where you do, and attend school with you. Will you tell them about Jesus?

God Loves the Roma

The missing words in the fill-in-the-blanks are the same ones as in the Word Search list. Can you solve both puzzles?



Many people do not like the _____ people. They are u_____ and i_____ -t_____ because they are d_____ from other people. The Roma are often accused of t_____ and other bad b_____. But God loves them. They live in E_____, A_____, N_____, A_____, and w_____. Roma religious beliefs are rooted in H_____. They are very s_____. There are 15 m_____ Roma living around the world. They are also called R_____ or G_____. The communist party thought the Roma were w_____ and barely h_____. A C_____. Youth group helped Ivan to learn the truth about Jesus. Now Ivan and his wife help plant churches among Roma people in the C_____. R_____ and other places in E_____.



N E C D N E I M A N E X S E I
A R A X O C D I I U A U C L T
I O R S R U S I R L O M L Y H
T I O B T A N O W I L T U X I
S V M Z H E P W T D R I R H E
I A A Y A E R I A E L S O S V
R H N B M K T N A N S R E N E
H E I E E S L T E E T I O Y R
C B W K R V E U L U S E R W Y
H R X E I D R H Q P R A D F A
U E P T C F T M Y G E O Y K M
L U B J A R N G L N X H P H O
S S H H O H I N D U I S M E R
W H S W X T N E R E F F I D Q
C Z E C H R E P U B L I C H Z

