

“HEY KIDS, REMEMBER...”



Most of the people in north Africa have never heard the truth about Jesus and how they can have forgiveness of their sin. Pray that God will send people to tell them about His love.

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to nurture a love 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. To financially contribute to this project or for other matters, Contact the editor at: elinor.young@worldteam.org.

GC Kids is a service of World Team:
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Issue 35: NORTHERN AFRICA

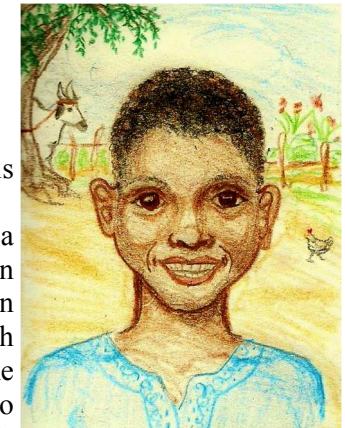


Take Them the Light.

Most of the people in northern Africa are like a lot of people all over the world. They have never heard the truth about Jesus. They don't know God wants them to know that Jesus died for them and invites them to become His loved children. The Bible says they are living in darkness, not knowing Jesus, the Light. Let's take Him to them!



One Day In Our Village



My name is Mahmadou, and I live in a village between the Saharan desert of north Africa and the rainforests to the south. This in-between area is called the Sahel.

My house is round and made out of mud, with a tree trunk in the middle. Actually there are lots of houses like this inside a big wall, and my mom and dad, my grandpa and grandma, and my cousins all live in one of these small houses.

In the middle, between the houses, is a big tree, where the horses and cows are tied, and where the goats sleep.



Sometimes I play with my sisters, wrestle with my friends or sit and watch my mom make food over the fire in the kitchen hut.

One day two women from another country came and stayed in my village. They even stayed inside my family's wall inside one of the houses. My mom and the other ladies in our place were afraid they wouldn't like our food, but they ate it and even liked it! Even though they looked different, they wore the same clothes as we did. They could also speak our language--kind of. I would point to the pot in the kitchen, or the axe, and they would try to learn the words. They sounded funny! I wondered what they would do in my village.

Most grown-ups, and even we kids, work most of the time. We pick cotton, my grandma herds the goats, and my uncles

and grandpa work with cows and in the fields. The women and girls carry water from the well.

What would these new people do? They surprised us when they asked to go to the well to carry water. We said it was too far, and they wouldn't be strong enough. But they went, and even carried water in a bucket on their heads. My sister told me they spilled a lot of water, though.

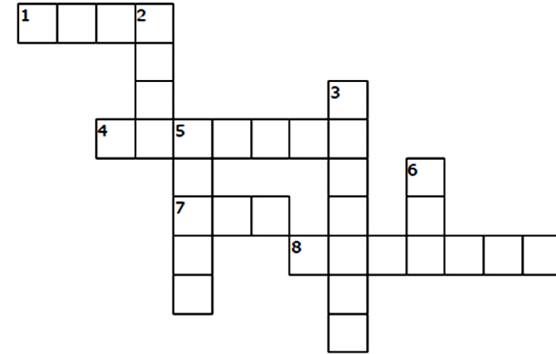
Then they said they wanted to go to the riverbed to help us carry sand. No way! But they came. I showed them how to scoop the sand to get the nice, big pieces to take home. Everyone knows that you want nice, big sand to put on the floor of your house, or inside your wall to make it look like a proper home. They learned from us and helped us carry some back.

Reflecting the Light

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. John 1:6-7

Puzzle is based on John 1:6-8

Jesus Is the Light



ACROSS

1. The man sent from God to tell about Jesus (John 1:6)
4. To have confidence that something is true (John 1:7)
7. The creator of heaven and earth (John 1:6)
8. A person who has personal knowledge of something (John 1:8)

DOWN

2. What a person, place, or thing is called (John 1:6)
3. To tell others about what you have seen or heard (John 1:7)
5. Something such as the sun, a flashlight, or lamp that allows you to see (John 1:8)
6. An adult male person (John 1:6)

BELIEVE	MAN	TESTIFY	LIGHT
JOHN	WITNESS	GOD	NAME

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The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

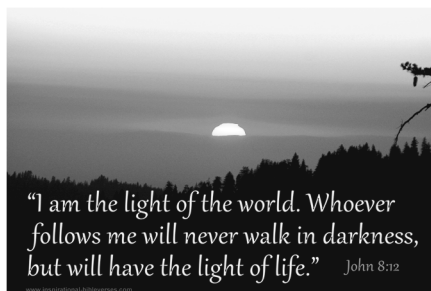
Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

★ *Think About It* ★

Isaiah 9:2 is not talking about night-time and day-time. It is talking about spiritual darkness. That is, not knowing the truth about Jesus. Sometimes that darkness is because a person has never heard about Jesus. Sometimes it is because they may have heard about Jesus, but not the real truth about Him. This is how it is with the people of northern Africa. God wants them to come out of that darkness into the light of knowing Jesus in truth.

Jesus is the Light we must carry and reflect to people who live in the darkness!



At night, when the women made the meal, and the men were eating together, we kids ate with the women under the stars. The new people ate with us, and we laughed and talked 'til we were sleepy.

But my favorite part was the stories. They had brought stories about God in our language, and played them on their phones. I laughed when I heard these stories coming out, and the music! My heart jumped when I heard the music, even though I knew the grown-ups didn't think it was good.

The new people played the



stories in different houses in the village, and all of us kids followed them and crowded in to hear. Then they played stories for us again at night. One story was about a man whose son had run away and spent all his father's money. Then he couldn't afford to even eat, so he came back home. And instead of punishing him, the father welcomed him back and threw him a party! I didn't expect the father to do that.

Those stories were different from anything I'd heard before. We don't have a school in our village, but sometimes I go to the mosque down the street and they teach us stories. But these stories were happier.

(Written by someone who has been there. There are lots of kids and families who live in villages just like Mahmadou's. Some of them live in cities. Most of them have never read or heard anything from the Bible in their language. Pray for people to go share the Bible and show them God's love through their actions. God can send people from other countries, but he's also training and sending people from other African tribes to reach them. Pray for the people who live in the Sahel the next time you hear or read a story from the Bible. ■

**This dot-to-dot
will reveal
something seen
all the time in
Mahmadou's
village and other
villages of the
Sahel in Africa.
You may wish to
color it, too.**

Did you see the
bull behind the tree
on page one?

