

WEEK of PRAYER

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Day 1

CHURCHES CONNECT WITH MISSIONARY TASK



Tim and Tina Louderback and Sean and Shelley Blacksten are missionaries who live in the country of Panama. They want churches in the U.S. to come help them in their work to tell people about Jesus.

“Americas Connect” is a program they started to help churches know how to be a part of their work. Panama was the first country for Americas Connect and then churches also traveled to Guatemala, Costa Rica and Brazil. Sometimes one church sends helpers to many different countries and sometimes they choose to stick with just one country.

Sean said the teams from the U.S. really encourage them in their work, especially people who are taking their first international trip.

“Our prayer is that [churches] will be the first among many who come to work alongside us and that some would choose to build on their experience in Central America,” Sean says.


Missions doesn't end when the Americas Connect trip ends, the Louderbacks say. They encourage churches to put what they learn on the mission field into practice when they return to the U.S.

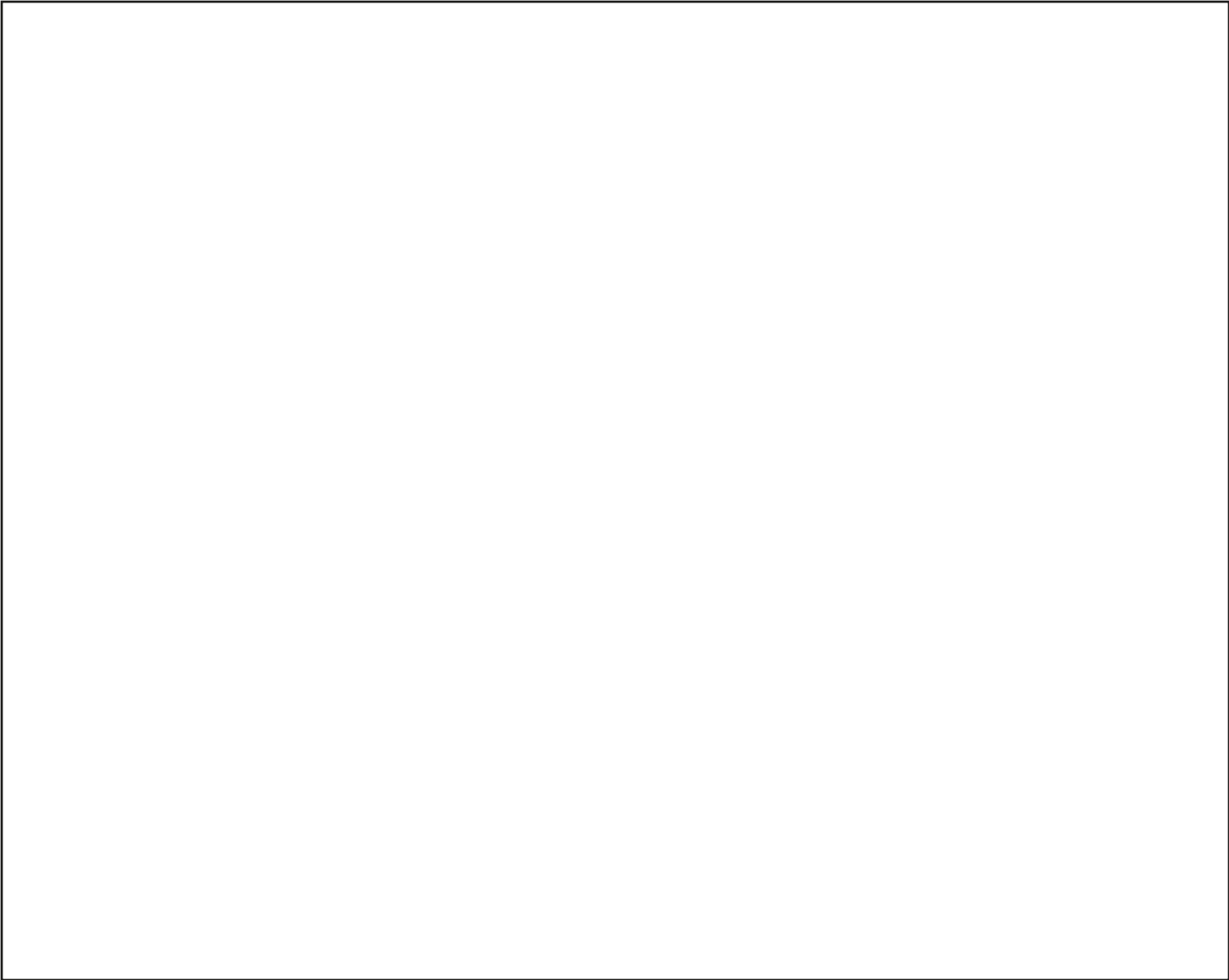
Fun Fact:

The Panama Canal is a big waterway that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. Huge ships can travel through the canal.




Activity.

Draw a  moving through the Panama Canal.



Time to Pray

Draw a  in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray for more people in Panama to hear about Jesus.

Pray that the missionaries will have more and more chances to share Jesus.

Pray that churches will want to go and help the missionaries.

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Day 2



Northern Africa & the Middle East

MISSIONARIES WELCOME EFFORTS TO PUSH BACK DARKNESS

One church in Oklahoma changed the way they did missions when they found out how many people in Northern African and the Middle East didn't know about Jesus. Pastor Mike, the missions pastor, decided that his church would join with missionaries to tell these people about Jesus.

God showed them how to show the people love and share the gospel. This church even encouraged other churches in Oklahoma to focus on reaching the people from this part of the world. He began to take trips with teams from his church to minister to missionaries and help them in their work.

Missionary Otis Neumann says that he is glad that more churches are choosing to take the gospel to people from this part of the world. Sometimes they are very hard to reach with the good news.

“When churches partner with IMB, we can do more together – and there is so much left to do in Northern Africa and the Middle East,” Otis says.

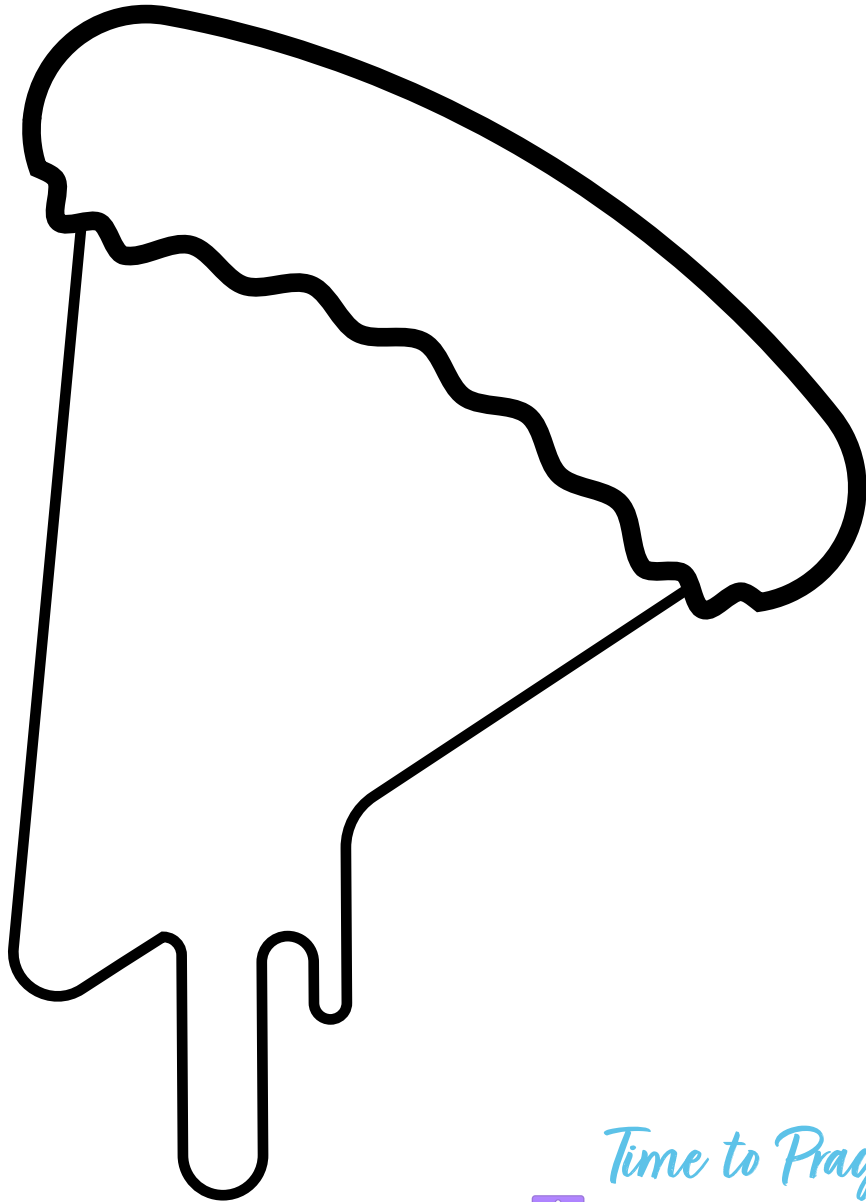
Fun Fact:

Olive trees grow all over the Middle East. The olives are eaten with meals and used to make olive oil.




Activity.

Add olives to this slice of pizza. Do you like olives on pizza? 😊 or ☹️



Time to Pray

Draw a  in the box after you pray for that request.

***Pray for the Neumanns,
who are missionaries among
North African and
Middle Eastern people.***

***Pray for more missionaries
and churches to tell others
about Jesus.***

***Pray that the light of Jesus
would break through the
barriers that keep people
from hearing about Him.***

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Day 3

COUPLE EQUIPS HISPANICS AND LATINOS IN SOUTH ASIA



IMB workers Skip and Kim Meyer have spent their lives on two very different mission fields but with the same purpose: giving hope to people who need it and helping others to do the same.

The Meyers moved to South Asia in 2004 to live in an area with a great need of the gospel. Their lives on the mission field started, however, in South America where they grew up as friends. Both of their parents were missionaries. After they grew up and married, they knew they wanted to be missionaries too.

Skip and Kim both grew up speaking Spanish. Today God is using their Spanish skills and understanding of Latino culture to train Hispanics and Latinos to serve in South Asia. That means Christians from Hispanic countries are moving to South Asia to share the gospel.

Skip says he is glad to help others be faithful and effective long-term missionaries.

Fun Fact:

The earth's highest mountain is in South Asia, in the country of Nepal. There are many beautiful mountains in South Asia.



Activity.

Write in the names of the **2** places where the missionaries have lived and served Jesus.

SOUTH

SOUTH

Time to Pray

Draw a 😊 in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray for Hispanics and Latinos as they serve in hard-to-reach regions of South Asia.

Pray for the Meyers as they minister to people who need the gospel.

Pray for families in South Asia who are still hurting because of COVID.

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Day 4

WEST AFRICANS TAKE LEAD IN SHARING BIBLE STORIES



Togo is a country in West Africa. Missionary Katee Sheppard works in Togo and in other countries in West Africa.

For years, IMB missionaries and national partners in West Africa have been sharing the good news of Jesus by telling Bible stories out loud. Some cultures don't read and write; they prefer to learn Bible stories by hearing them spoken.

Katee Sheppard* has seen firsthand the impact that Bible stories in Africans' heart languages can have.

"They ask questions and God opens doors that lead many to Christ," Katee says.

Now African Christians are leading workshops in how to tell the stories for thousands of believers representing dozens of languages. In Togo, there is a school called the Baptist Bible Institute of Togo that teaches this important ministry so that many, many more people can hear the good news of Jesus.

*pseudonym used

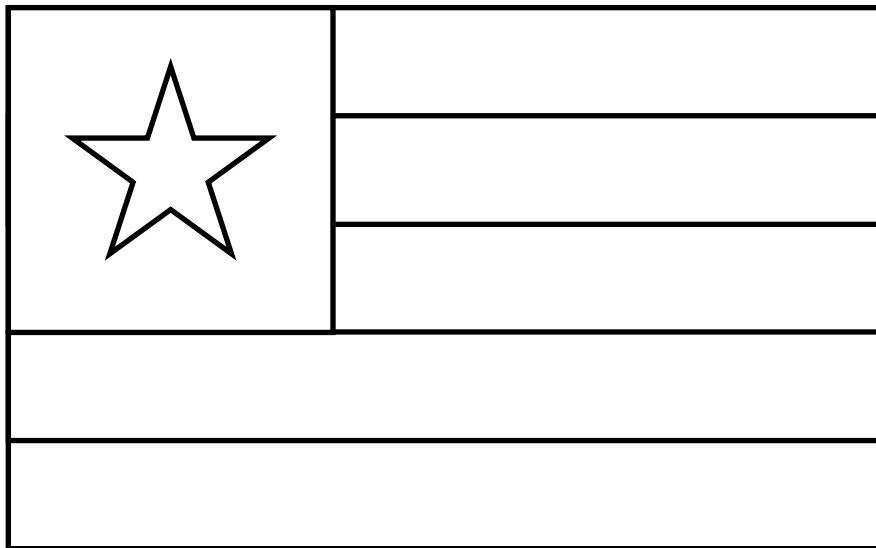
Fun Fact:

The official language in Togo is French, but there are also many other languages spoken there.




Activity.

Color the flag of Togo to match the one here.



Time to Pray

Draw a  in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray for Katee Sheppard and other missionaries in Togo and West Africa.

Pray that people will hear the Bible stories and want to know more about Jesus.

Pray that more Christian leaders will learn how to share the gospel in the many languages of Togo.

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Day 5

TURKMEN SEARCH FOR HOPE



Have you heard of the country of Turkmenistan? Many people haven't! It's a small country in Central Asia and the people who live there are called Turkmen.

Life in Turkmenistan is very hard and many people have to travel to other countries to find work. They are desperate to take care of their families. Missionaries help them find jobs and food, but the most important thing they do is tell them about Jesus. Some Turkmen who move to other countries hear about Jesus for the first time.

When a Turkmen becomes a Christian, though, life can become even more difficult, because people are not free to follow Jesus in their country. When people tell others that they believe in Jesus, they risk losing jobs, being rejected by family, and being mistreated.

"People are coming to faith," says Anthony Bingham*, an IMB worker in Central Asia. "But coming to faith means you are signing up for a rougher life."

**pseudonym used*

Fun Fact:

There's a melon that grows in Turkmenistan that is so juicy and sweet that the country celebrates a national holiday around it – Melon Day every August.



Activity.

Unscramble the following words that the Turkmen people need.

O P E H

P L O G S E

U S S E J

L B E B I

Time to Pray

Draw a ☀ in the box after you pray for each request.

Pray that the Turkmen people will not be afraid to follow Jesus.

Pray that missionaries will be faithful to tell Turkmen how to have hope in Jesus.

Pray that the people will find work and be able to support their families.

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Day 6

PRAYER AND MIRACLES TRANSFORM



*Southeast
Asia*

This story might be hard to believe, but it is absolutely true. Stephen and Erin Spencer are missionaries in Southeast Asia. They tell how the good news is reaching people in their village.

When a woman called “Momma” first heard Bible stories, she wasn’t sure if she believed them.

One day Momma’s daughter came with the terrible news that the family pig had died. In this area, a pig is worth a lot of money and they could not afford to lose it.

“Momma marched down to the pigpen where this crowd had gathered from the village,” Stephen explains. “She just crawled into the pigpen and got down on her knees and said, ‘God, if You’re real, then show these people that You’re real.’ And while she was praying, the dead pig stood up.” God raised the pig to life!

Momma believed and was baptized the next day. Many others have also accepted Jesus.

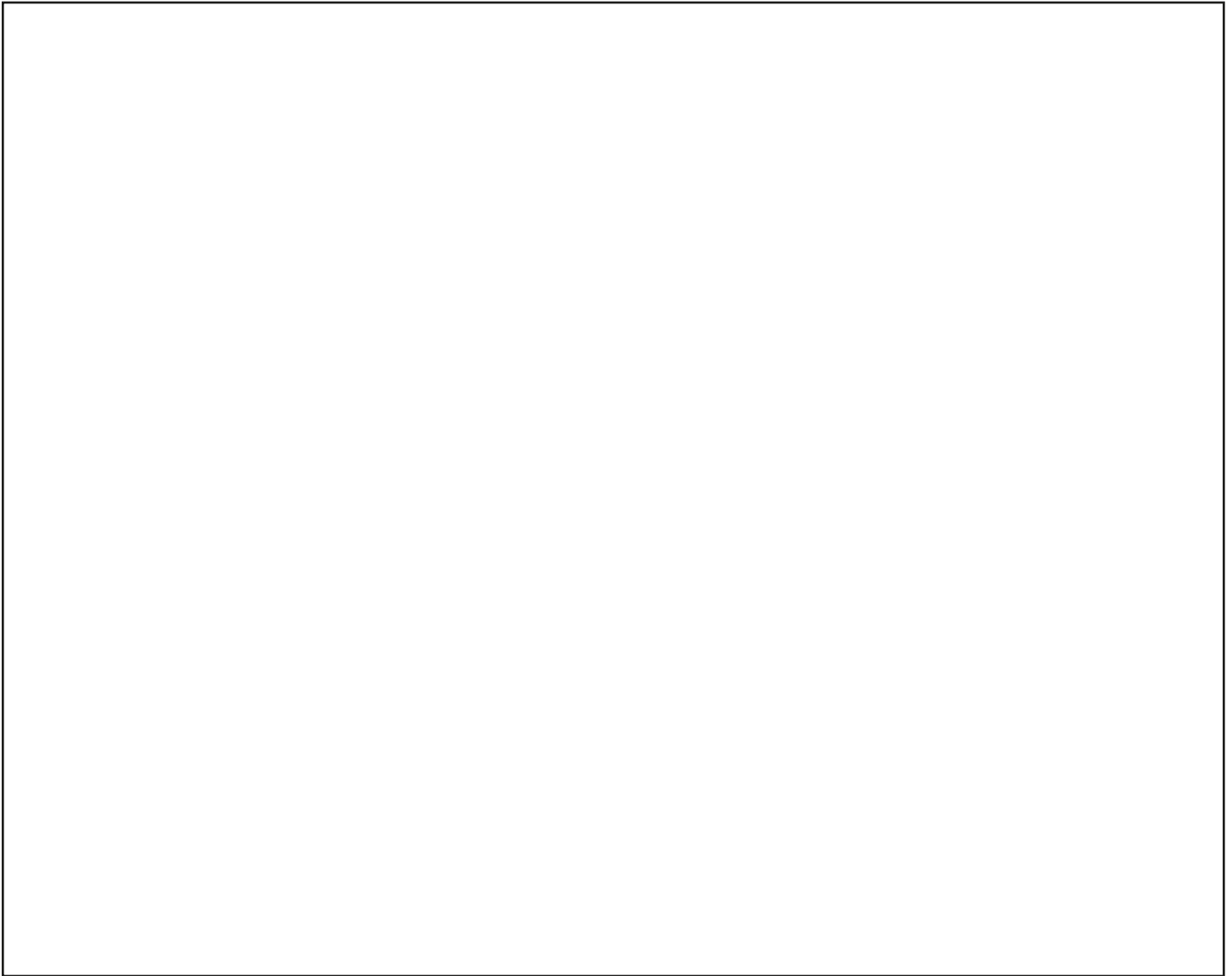
Fun Fact:

There are more than 25,000 islands in Southeast Asia.



Activity.

Draw a 🐷 standing in the pen. Thank God that Momma's pig is alive!



Time to Pray

Draw a ✨ in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray that God will do more miracles that show people He is real.

Pray for the people of Southeast Asia to worship only the True God.

Pray for missionaries Stephen and Erin Spencer and their family.

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Day 7

CHRISTIANS SEND MORE MISSIONARIES

When IMB missionary Jeremiah Farmer moved to Taiwan, he saw a need in the churches – no one was being sent out as missionaries. Jeremiah and other IMB missionaries focused on training Christians in Taiwan to send out people to be missionaries to other countries.

In 2020, Baptists in Taiwan sent out 5 missionaries. This year, nine more missionaries are being sent. Those being sent are young and old, married and single, male and female. One woman sent in 2019 moved to the Northern Africa and Middle Eastern region. Luna, a single woman, is learning the Arabic language and has already been building relationships with those she meets in the city and markets.

Jeremiah is glad to see his Taiwanese friends become missionaries.

“The IMB sent our earliest missionaries to East Asia, a mission field, and now, 175 years later, they are beginning to be ‘sent’ along with us to other mission fields.”




Taiwan

Fun Fact:

The national food dish in Taiwan is called “stinky tofu.”




Activity.

Copy this  verse that tells churches to send missionaries.

Go and make disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19

Time to Pray

Draw a  in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray that more missionaries will be sent from Taiwan to other countries.

Pray that missionaries will be strong and safe as they share the love of Jesus.

Pray for Jeremiah Farmer and his family who serve Jesus in Taiwan.

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Day 8

CHURCHES GROW AND MULTIPLY

There are many beautiful things to see in the Czech Republic in Europe – beautiful buildings, beautiful scenery, beautiful people. But sadly, very few people in the whole country choose to follow Jesus.

Larry and Melissa Lewis are church planters in this country. When they first moved, they began a Bible study in their home. That Bible study outgrew their home, and on the first Sunday in a bigger space, a man named Daniel came. Daniel had been a pastor before, but was new to the city. He heard about the Lewises' work and was curious to meet them.

That Bible study turned into a vibrant church that is planting other churches, and Daniel is the pastor.

Church members have planted five new churches and they are excited to see what God is going to do next. They are praying for 10 new places to start churches.



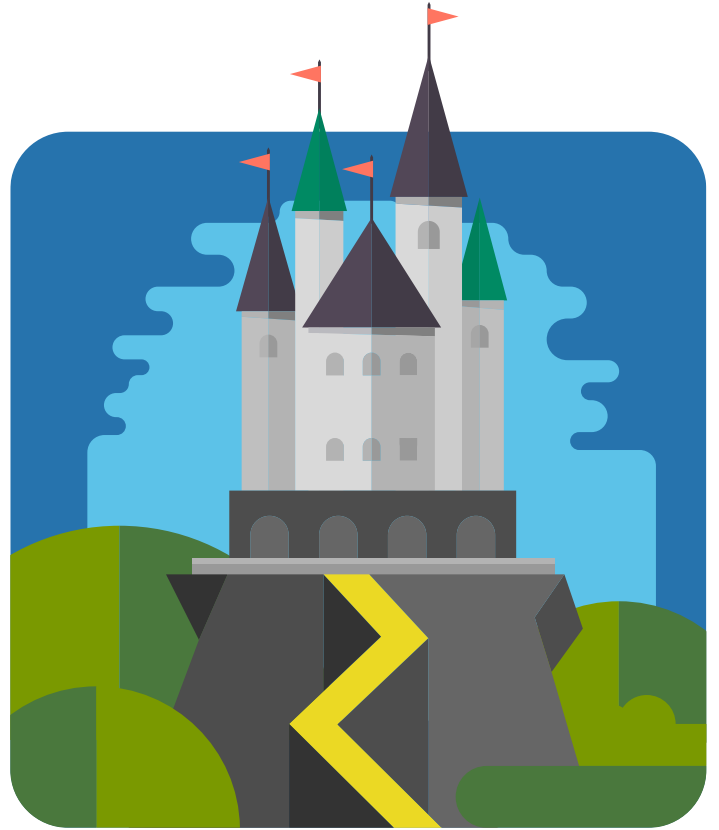
Fun Fact:

There are more than 2,000 castles in the Czech Republic, more than in any other country in Europe.




Activity.

Circle the **5** differences in the castle pictures.



Time to Pray

Draw a  in the box after you pray for that request.

Pray for the new churches starting in the Czech Republic.

Pray for more missionaries to go to Europe to share the gospel.

Pray that Christians would want to tell others about Jesus.

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