

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

Day 2:
Missionaries
in the US



Websites of Interest:

- Rev. Watkin's "Caretakers of God's Creation" website: <http://www.vaumc.org/caretakers>
- Green Church resources:
<http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/churchsociety/green/GCIResources.pdf>
A downloadable, detailed list.

Learning Activities:

- **Nature Prints**

Materials: Assorted items from nature in your area: leaves, twigs, pieces of bark, pine needles, dried vines, etc.; tempera paint (any color); shallow, waterproof containers (old pie plates, plates with a slight curved lip); used sponges that have been cleaned; old newspapers; paint shirts; sheets of paper from your recycled paper piles that have one side blank; soap, water, and old hand towels to wash paint off of the young artists' hands.

Preparation: Cover the table with the old newspapers. Dampen the sponges and place them in the shallow containers. Pour a small amount of paint on each sponge, spreading the paint to cover the top of the sponge. Display the items from nature on the table. (Consider going on a nature hunt with the children prior to the session.)

Instructions: Press the nature item onto the sponge, pressing gently to transfer the paint. Slowly pull the nature item off of the sponge. Then gently press the nature item, paint side down, on the blank side of the paper. Let the prints dry. As the children work on their prints lead them in a discussion about creation, help them retell the story of creation, and remind them that we have been given the responsibility to care for God's creation.



- **Scripture Art**

Materials: Scraps of multiple-color construction paper cut into ½"-1" pieces; used 8½" x 11" paper that has one side blank (at least one page per child); glue sticks; markers, crayons, or colored pencils; rulers (any size); soap, water, and old hand towels to wash glue and markers off of the young artists' hands

Preparation: Using a pencil, mark a 1½" border from the edge of the blank side of the paper to help give the children a guide for gluing the pieces of construction paper. Older children can do this for themselves.

Instructions: Invite each child to glue pieces of construction paper around the edges of the blank paper to create a paper mosaic frame. Use markers to write "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1" (NRSV) in the middle of the paper. (If your class uses another Bible translation, use that translation for the scripture quote.) Some children may want to draw a picture that interprets that scripture as well. As they work, lead them in a conversation about what the scripture means to them and how they can live out what it means.

- **Greening of the Classroom**

Goal: To develop a class plan for creating and maintaining the classroom as a "green classroom." Older children can be a significant part of creating the plan; younger children can be led in the conversation in age-appropriate ways.

Begin by asking the children what it means to "go green." Lead them in a discussion about recycling in their preschools, schools, homes, and church. Discover how they may already be making decisions to take care of creation in these places.

Ask them to look at their space and ask them if they can think of ways they could help their church classroom "go green."

Some suggestions:

1. Use both sides of all paper.
2. Gather and store leftover scraps of art supplies for use in later projects.
3. Decorate and use a "Recycled Paper" box in the space.
4. Use paper products made from recycled materials for snacks, or consider collecting extra cups, etc. from home and washing them after snack times.
5. Collect old hand towels to use as quick cleanups, instead of paper towels or baby wipes. Are there parents willing to take turns washing the towels?
6. Turn off extra lights, turn water off while soaping up hands, and use earth-friendly cleaning supplies in the classroom space.
7. Pray for creation as a part of every session.
8. Invite the children to share ways they have taken care of creation as you gather together each week.



9. Ask for volunteers from the class to collect used bulletins after worship to add to your “Recycled Paper” box.
10. Create a Creation Care bulletin board for the church, posting the Nature Prints as a border around the text of Psalm 24.

• **Read to Me**

Consider checking some of these books out of the library for a story time in Sunday school:

- *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- *Children of the Earth* by Schim Shimmel
- *Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood
- *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth* by Douglas Wood
- *The Beautiful World that God Made* by Rhonda Growler-Greene and Anne Wilson

Children’s Story For Use in Worship or Christian Education Settings:

Materials: Visit your local farmers’ market to create a small basket of local seasonal fruits or vegetables. You may have persons who have farms or gardens in your congregation. Ask them to bring some of their current crop to worship.

Rev. Pat Watkins never thought he would be called to a ministry to God’s creation. He liked being outdoors, but came to understand how connected we are to all of creation during his time as a missionary. He and his wife served in an isolated village in Nigeria that had no electricity, telephone, or running water. It was there that he learned to live in a manner more connected to the cycles of the earth than ever before.

Pat shares, “Nigeria has a rainy and a dry season each year. We ate mangoes when they were in season. When they weren’t, we didn’t eat them. We couldn’t go to the grocery store and buy mangoes grown someplace far away. Our trips to the big city to buy supplies had to occur during the dry season, because it was physically impossible to get in and out of our village during the rainy season.”

Here is a basket full of items that are in season right now—they look really good. What if we could only eat things that are growing here in _____ (*insert your community’s name*) right now? What would be some of the foods we wouldn’t have? (*Wait for a few suggestions from the children. You may need to start the process by suggesting an out-of-season fruit or vegetable.*)

Pat began to come to an understanding that there was something wonderful about living in seasonal cycles. He realized there was a sacredness to living within the cycle of God’s earth. As a result he asked himself, “Is there a connection between my faith as a Christian and this feeling of relationship to the earth?” He went back to school to learn more about caring for creation. Rev. Watkins has dedicated his life as a Church and Community Worker to help us ask *and* answer that question too!

Do you remember the story of Noah and the ark that he built? Rev. Watkins wants to remind you of one part of the story we sometimes miss. We may remember the story of the rainbow as the sign of God’s promise between God and all people and animals. But in Genesis 9:13, God tells us, “I have set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” Hmm...“between me and the earth.”



That means that God loves and cares for everything here on the earth, even the very earth itself. How can we do any less as children of God?

Let us pray together:

Dear God,

You have created all that is around us—the plants and animals, the thunder and lightening, the snow and ice, the rocks and soil. You created all of humankind to love and care for each other and the earth. Help us be mindful each day to care for all that you have created—even the earth itself. We pray for Rev. Watkins and his ministry with us. Guide us as we make decisions in what we do and how we do it, so we will take good care of your creation. In Jesus' name. Amen.





GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

We know that children want to learn how people are helping other people in their neighborhood and all around the world. This packet of ideas, resources, and stories will help you discern the best way to engage the children in your setting into the 10-Fold experience!

Here are some program options to consider:

- *10-Fold Sunday school/Wednesday-night program*: Design a fun experience by creating a learning center for each project. Children would visit each area to hear a story and learn more about the project. Consider having a craft or coloring page at each learning center, or a separate learning center for creative activities. You can also send the coloring pages or other activity pages home with the children. Make sure to send home information about 10-Fold so their families can participate.
- *10-Fold Morning "Mini-Retreat"*: Plan a special morning of learning, activities, and experiencing mission. Enlarge the learning centers to include the crafts, stories, and a game from the 10-Fold emphasis, as appropriate. In the weeks prior to the event, encourage the children to do something extra at home to earn money for a special offering for one of the projects. The entire church may want to help the children in raising funds for their project. If you have an on-site internet connection, one learning center could be a visit to the 10-Fold website. Contact your Annual Conference mission coordinator to discover if there is a missionary appointed within your conference. You may be able to arrange for a call, an email, or a Skype visit with this missionary.

A quick search on the internet and at your public library will give you many ideas for crafts and games from around the world. Your local library and bookstores may have these available to review as you discern which resource will fit your program needs. Most important, for more information about the mission, ministry, and people of the General Board of Global Ministries go to: www.gbgm-umc.org.

Music

Put Your Arms Around the World: Global Songs and Activities for Children (S T Kimbrough, Jr., editor; stories and activities by Jodi L. Cataldo). Book ISBN: 978-1-933663166, CD: 978-1-933663067. General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, t/a GBGMusik (2009). Each song has a story, scripture, and activity provided to help you discuss the theme of the song with the children.

For Everyone Born: Global Songs for an Emerging Church (Jorge Lockward and Christopher Heckert, editors). Book ISBN: 13-978-1933663265, CD ISBN: 13-978-1933663258. General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, t/a GBGMusik (2008). Contains short, singable songs and choruses from around the world. Each song includes information about the context, performance options, and worship use.

Faith-Based Resources

Hugging the World: Faith, Hope, Love in Action, Children's Mission Study and Teacher's Guide (Jodi L. Cataldo). ISBN: 978-1-933663425. Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries (2010). This 2010 School of Christian Mission resource can be used for many years with children in mission education. Uses *Put Your Arms Around the World* as a resource.



Crafts & Activities

The Kid's Multicultural Art Book: Art and Craft Experiences from Around the World (Alexandra M. Terzian). ISBN: 13-978-0913589724. Williamson Books (1993).
Global Art: Activities, Projects, and Inventions from Around the World (MaryAnn F. Kohl). ISBN: 13-978-0876591901. Gryphon House (1998).

Cookbooks

The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook: Food & Fun Around the World (Deanna F. Cook). ISBN: 13-978-0913589915. Williamson Books (1995). Older version.
The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook (Kids Can!) (Deanna F. Cook). ISBN: 13-978-0824968182. Williamson Books (2008). Updated version.

Games

Kids Around the World Play! The Best Fun and Games from Many Lands (Arlette N. Braman). ISBN: 13-978-0471409847. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (2002).
Play with Us: 100 Games from Around the World (Oriol Ripoll). ISBN: 13-978-1556525940. Chicago Review Press (2002).

General Information

Whoever You Are (Mem Fox). ISBN: 13-978-0152164065. Voyager Books, Harcourt, Inc. (2001).
A short full-color picture book that reminds children that although we may all live in different places, we may not look the same, and our schools and languages may be different—inside we are all alike.
I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children (Marian Wright Edelman). ISBN: 13-978-0060280512. Amistad, 1st Edition (2005). Character-building stories, poems, and legends from around the world.
Children Just Like Me: Celebrations! (Anabel and Barnabas Kindersley). ISBN: 13-978-0789420275. DK Children; 1st American Edition (1997).
A School Like Mine: How children live around the world (DK Publishing). ISBN: 13-978-0756629137. DK Publishing (2007).
A Life Like Mine (DK Publishing). ISBN 13-978-0756618032. DK Publishing (2002).
If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World's People (David J. Smith). ISBN: 13-978-1550747799. Kids Can Press, 2nd Edition (2002).

World Map

United Methodist Mission Map: go to cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=693514 to download a free world map that indicates all of the countries where there is a UMC mission presence.

Resource written by Debra Tyree, staff member of Global Ministries. Rev. Tyree works in the area of Global Praise enabling persons to connect their faith with the world through worship and mission education resources for all ages.