

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

Day 4:
Church Planting
Worldwide



Websites of Interest:

- Learn about the Mission Initiatives: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/initiatives/>
Be sure to click on each of the countries' names to learn about church growth in each area and about the persons who serve in those areas.

Learning Activities:

- **Plant a Plant!**

Materials: One plastic cup per child, a bag of potting soil, stickers, a small bag of gravel, and a package of grass seed. (Check with the garden supply store in your community to discern the best grass for your area.) Go green! Collect used plastic cups after a meeting or party and use stickers leftover from another activity.

Instructions: Engage the children in putting $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " of gravel in the bottom of the cup. Fill with potting soil to approximately 1" below the cup rim. Sprinkle the seeds in each cup, cover them gently with a small amount of soil, and water them well. Put in a sunny window and watch them grow. As the children water the plants each week, talk with them about what we need to do to help the plants grow and lead them in a conversation about ways churches grow around the world.

- **Additional Online Ideas for Plant-Based Crafts:**

Earth Tin Can Herb Pot: <http://crafts.kaboose.com/earth-tin-can-herb-pots.html>

Terrarium: <http://crafts.kaboose.com/terrarium.html>

- **"Scrappy" Flower Picture**

Materials: Scissors, glue sticks, pencils, markers, a container of some kind, and a paper plate for each child. Collect scraps of construction paper (all colors), bright colored paper from your mail and recycle bin, or leftover giftwrap and tissue from a party. Find a small box or other container to hold scraps.



Instructions: As the children gather, invite them to cut the scraps into small pieces and put them into the container. Give every child a paper plate and invite them to draw the outline of a large flower in the center of the plate with a pencil. Glue the scraps of paper inside the flower to “color” it in. Write “Planting Churches Around the World” around the rim of the plate with the markers.

Note: When working with young children, pre-cut the construction paper scraps. Also consider whether you need to pre-write the phrase on the plate or even “pre-draw” the design, depending on the age of your children and time allotted for this activity.

- **Support “Letters” for Missionaries Serving in Church Planting**

Materials: 8½" x 11" blank white paper, colored markers, digital camera

Instructions: Go to the Mission Initiatives website <http://new.gbpm-umc.org/work/initiatives/> and click on the country you are interested in learning about. You will also find the link to the missionaries in those areas. Email the missionaries to learn a bit more about their ministry. Choose a word that will show your support for them. You may want to consider asking for their help spelling the word in the language of the congregation they serve. Ask each child to draw just one of the letters of the word in a large outline shape on their piece of paper. “Google” outline fonts for examples as needed. Use markers to fill in the letters with many different colors or shapes. Once all the letters are completed, ask the children to line up and spell the word, each holding their letter in front of themselves. Take a digital picture to email to the missionaries or the new church plant they serve. Consider scanning the letters and use them as part of your communication about “In Mission Together.”

Note: This could easily become a churchwide activity by using a large piece of poster board per letter. Take the letters to various church meetings and Sunday school classes for everyone to have a part in coloring in the letters. Gather your congregation together after worship and take a picture of the group holding the letters to spell your “words” of support for the church planters. Email the picture to the missionaries.

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

Materials: A small plant in a pot. A good choice would be a plant that proliferates quickly in your area. Remember, children think dandelion plants are beautiful.

Preparation: Print copies of the two pictures at the end of the church planters in Thailand. (See page 6 of this resource.)

(Hold the plant in front of the children.) This is a plant from my yard/office. It grew from a seed. What things will it need to continue to grow? (Water, sun, weeding, pulling off the dead parts, mulch. Affirm each answer and share one sentence about how their suggestion helps the plant to grow.)



(Hold the first picture of the Jantanava family.) This is a picture of a United Methodist pastor's family who lives in Thailand. They are helping their church to grow. We can also help their church continue to grow, just like we can help the _____ *(insert name of plant)* to grow. We just do it in a different way. What kinds of things do you think boys and girls need to learn about Jesus? *(A teacher, Bibles, friends to invite them to come, safe places to meet.)* Yes, those would help everyone to grow a church. Every church needs a teacher who shares the story of Jesus. This person can work together with others in the community to help grow a church. *(Hold up the second picture of children.)* Here is another picture from the church that Pastor Jantanava is helping to grow. Everyone can work together to help a church grow—even kids. Just as a plant needs help to grow, new believers and churches around the world need our help too. They need partners who support them in many ways so they can grow in their love for Jesus. One way you can support them is through prayer. *(If you created "Support Letters," show them and say the word together.)*

Let us pray together:

Creating God, help us to work together with others to share your love around the world. We ask that you help us find ways to support new churches as they teach others about you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(If you created "Support Letters," add a sentence to the prayer that includes that word.)



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.gbgn-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.

JANTANAVA FAMILY IN THAILAND



YOUTH IN THAILAND MISSION INITIATIVE CHURCH

