





Kids
Prayer
Advent



Pray for the world
this Christmas



What's this all about?

On a cold, cloudless night, some Shepherds sleepily lie down while watching their sheep with half-closed eyes. Suddenly, a bright light startles them from their slumber. Their eyes adjust, and they see a sky full of heavenly stars, but it's not stars... the shepherds shake with fear at the realisation that the stars are angels!

"Do not be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people..." (LuKe 2:10 CSB)

The message of Jesus gave the shepherds hope, and it gives us hope also. This hope is for all people, the whole world, but many people don't know about it yet. This book will help you to pray every day during Christmas for people and countries that need God's help. Take a step back from the hustle and bustle of Christmas, and step into CHRIST-mas time.

Written by
Micah Lamprecht, age 12
November, 2023



How to use the Kids Prayer Advent

Begin the Kids Prayer Advent on the 1st of December. It can be read by Kids on their own or a parent can read it, before bed or any time that suits.

Each day during Advent, you can read a story about a child living in another country, and how they celebrate Christmas. Then, you can pray for the country.

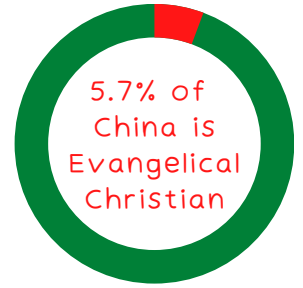
Sometimes, an extra page is included after the country. These extras contain pictures from the country and a QR code for a Christmas recipe from that country that you can make. If you can't scan the QR code, the links can be found on the attributions page.

Please share this book with others!

The Advent Calendar

Day 1 	Day 2 	Day 3 	Day 4 	Day 5 
Day 6 	Day 7 	Day 8 	Day 9 	Day 10 
Day 11 	Day 12 	Day 13 	Day 14 	Day 15 
Day 16 	Day 17 	Day 18 	Day 19 	Day 20 
Day 21 	Day 22 	Day 23 	Day 24 	Day 25 

China



"Excuse me sir?" I asked an employee of the store, "Do you sell apples here?"
"Wrapped or plain?" he answered me.
"Wrapped, please." I said.

In China it has become a tradition to give apples on Christmas eve. This is because the Mandarin word for apple sounds a bit like the Mandarin word for peace and that's what we call the carol "Silent Night" here.

"Here you go," the shopkeeper said, smiling, as he gave me the apples. I paid for them and walked out of the store, thanking the shopkeeper.

As I walked home I started thinking about why we have Christmas. I remember my mother telling me that some people do it to celebrate some guy's birth, which sounds kind of dumb to make such a big deal out of it for a person I've never heard of. I suppose if people do something, they have a reason for it, though...

Pray

EVEN THOUGH CHINA HAS STARTED TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IT IS NOT A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY FOR THEM.

PRAY THAT THEY WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AS JESUS'S BIRTH.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Mandarin is:

"Sheng Dan Kuai Le!"

Germany



2.1% of
Germany is
Evangelical
Christian

"Quick, Albert, put your shoes on the doorstep. I think St. Nicholas is coming!" my mom shouted.

In Germany, we celebrate St. Nicholas Day on the 6th of December. All the kids in Germany polish their shoes and put them on their front porch, and then St. Nicholas puts nuts, sweets and little toys in our shoes! But there is also Krampus, who is supposed to look like the Devil; he will accompany St. Nicholas and punish all the bad kids.

I ran and put my shoes out, then ran back inside. If I'm out of the house when he comes, he won't give me presents.

Later that day, I found that the Christmas tree had been decorated! In Germany the mother secretly decorates the tree.

As I waited for the rest of my family to come over, for celebrating St. Nicholas day, I drank some hot Glühwein, a mulled wine and ate Stollen which is a delicious fruit bread.

Pray

MANY PEOPLE IN GERMANY CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIAN. BUT DON'T REALLY KNOW JESUS. PRAY THAT THEY WOULD COME TO A TRUE, SAVING FAITH.

PRAY FOR PEOPLE IN GERMANY WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD THE TRUE GOSPEL.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in German is:
"Frohe Weihnachten!"

Extras.



Stollen Bread

Chef Time

ASK YOUR PARENT TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND HELP YOU MAKE STOLLEN.



Did you know?

THERE USED TO BE A WALL THAT DIVIDED THE EAST FROM THE WEST IN GERMANY. AND THE EAST WAS COMMUNIST!



Glühwein

Try it!

IF YOU HAVE A SIBLING OR A FRIEND YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE A GIFT TO: FIND THEIR SHOES AND PUT SWEETS IN THEM, ALONG WITH A HANDMADE CARD CONTAINING A KIND MESSAGE!

Zimbabwe



30.9% of
Zimbabwe is
Evangelical
Christian

"Chitepo, you may come down!" my mother called from the living room of our small but cosy home.

This was the moment I was waiting for! I ran as fast as I could to the living room. It was set up for Christmas Day, and we had the "Western" Christmas tree set up and plants everywhere. In Zimbabwe we decorate our houses with plants for Christmas.

After opening presents we ate a meal of chicken and rice. In Zimbabwe, chicken used to be very expensive so we only ate it on special occasions, but now it's mostly just a delicious tradition.

We quickly changed into our good clothes. At church on Christmas morning it's a good place to show off your new clothes. I met with my friends Mataka and Mujuru, and I told them what I had gotten for Christmas.

When we got home, we set up our loudest speaker and played African and Christmas songs on it. A lot of our neighbors were doing the same thing!

Pray

IN ZIMBABWE, SOME PEOPLE MIX
CHRISTIANITY WITH OTHER
TRADITIONAL BELIEFS.

PRAY THAT ZIMBABWEAN CHRISTIANS
WILL KNOW AND BELIEVE THE TRUTH
ABOUT JESUS FROM GOD'S WORD!

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in
Chewa is: "Moni Wa
Chikondwewero Cha
Kristmasi!"

Peru



11.6% of
Peru is
Evangelical
Christian

"Come in! we just started the Chocolatada," my Father said, inviting our cousins join us for the Peruvian Christmas tradition of a "Chocolatada", which is when family and friends get together, drink hot chocolate and eat panetón, an Italian Christmas cake.

It used to be that Chocolatadas were for helping the needy by giving them food and gifts, and some churches still do this today!

My cousin had brought with him a "retablos" he had made and we put it on the table so everyone could see it.

"I used a Llama for the donKey, but I didn't know what to use for a cow," my cousin said showing us his "retablos", a nativity scene that is in a small box. Often in Peru we will replace the animals in the nativity with a Peruvian animal. We sometimes also only put baby Jesus in the scene on Christmas day.

Pray

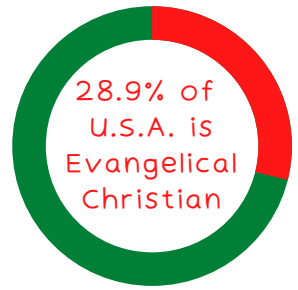
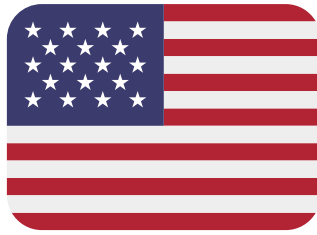
EVEN THOUGH THE CHURCH HAS GROWN STEADILY IN PERU, IT LACKS STRONG CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE PERU WISE AND HUMBLE CHRISTIAN LEADERS.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in Spanish is: "feliz navidad!"

U.S.A



"Jack, get ready for church!" my mom called, while I sighed.

We only go to church on Christmas Eve, sometimes Easter, for funerals and for weddings, but I don't know why we have to go to church at all when we're not even Christian.

This year, we go to the late-night service to sing fun Christmas carols about the baby Jesus, and there are pretty candles and a nativity to look at, so it's not too bad, I suppose. I just would prefer to be back at home for the REAL reason for Christmas: opening presents!

Pray

THE USA STARTED AS A VERY CHRISTIAN COUNTRY, AND TODAY THERE ARE MANY CHRISTIANS THERE, BUT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN THE USA DON'T FOLLOW JESUS.

PRAY FOR KIDS LIKE JACK, WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CHURCH AND RELIGION, BUT NOT A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas!"

Japan



0.5% of
Japan is
Evangelical
Christian

"Wow, this is good!" I exclaimed as I ate some delicious KFC chicken. In Japan, it is a tradition to eat KFC on Christmas! It's a funny reason why we do that: we think Colonel Sanders (who started KFC) looks like Santa! Also, like many countries, we have a Santa who appears in stores, but often it is Colonel Sanders dressed up as Santa.

I looked out the window of the KFC store, and saw a young couple walking and looking at some of the many Christmas lights. Christmas is kind of like Valentine's Day here. Young people give gifts to their boyfriends and girlfriends. There are also lots of lights put up and firework shows.

Another tradition that some people do is go to the Tokyo Disneyland, to see all the decorations and the many parades.

Pray

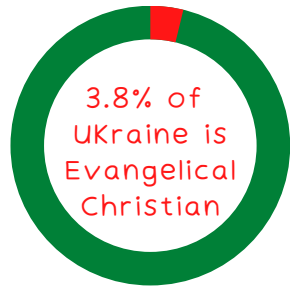
JAPAN HAS MANY SMALL VILLAGES AND CITIES WITH NO CHURCH OR LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS AT ALL.

PRAY THAT MORE LOCAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIPS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND BE A WITNESS TO JAPANESE PEOPLE WHO NEED THE GOSPEL.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Japanese is:
"MerīKurisumasu!"

Ukraine



"Holy water sure doesn't go very far for a whole day," I pointed out to my friends, as we sat together, waiting for the first star to appear in the evening sky. Then, and only then, could the feast begin!

My family are Catholics in Ukraine, and each year on Christmas Eve we have to fast until the first star appears, and we can only drink Holy Water that morning. As soon as we can see the star, we can eat a big feast with twelve dishes! The twelve dishes represent Jesus' twelve disciples.

The meal is normally vegan, so no eggs, meat or milk. The main dish is normally a sweet porridge made out of wheat, called 'kutia'. We also eat a special kind of Christmas bread, and beet soup which is known as 'Borscht'. The next day we eat another twelve dishes, but some of these can also include meat.

Pray

UKRAINE IS CURRENTLY AT WAR AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN NEED OF HOPE IN GOD.

PRAY THAT MORE MISSIONARIES WILL GO AND SHARE OF THE HOPE OF CHRIST.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in Ukrainian is:
"shchaslyvoho Rizdva!"

Nigeria



"... And thank you for this food you have given us."

My father finished the prayer, as my relatives and I sat around a big table heaped with sheep meat, turkey, chicken, fried rice and vegetable salad.

All of my family had arrived on Christmas Eve to celebrate Christmas at my grandparents' house. We throw a party which lasts all night long!

In my family, at midnight all the kids launch firecrackers, and in the morning we excitedly open and give presents to one another.

After breakfast we drive to church and sing worship to the person who this day was all about.

Pray

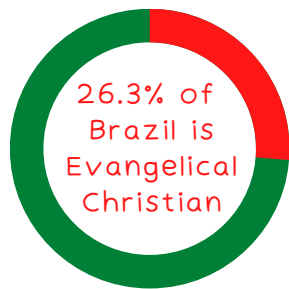
THERE IS MUCH FIGHTING BETWEEN THE MUSLIM STATES IN THE NORTH OF NIGERIA AND THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN STATES.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING PEACE BETWEEN THEM, AND THAT THE CHRISTIANS WILL SHOW LOVE AND KINDNESS, EVEN TO THEIR ENEMIES.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Hausa is:
"barka da
Kirsimeti!"

Brazil



"Maria, the fireworks are starting!" my friend shouted very loudly. I was coming out of the doors of our church after Missa do Galo (Mass of the Rooster) when the fireworks went off. It was beautiful!

In the morning, we woke up to get our presents from Santa, or as we call him here, 'Good Old Man.' My brother and I had left a sock on the windowsill the night before, so "Good Old Man" could exchange it for a present.

I had also left a present for my sister, who was my Amigo Secreto (Secret Friend.)

Here in Brazil, we often secretly buy a small present for a friend, and on Christmas day give them the gift and reveal that we are their Amigo Secreto. I had gotten my sister a small necklace, and she loved it!

Pray

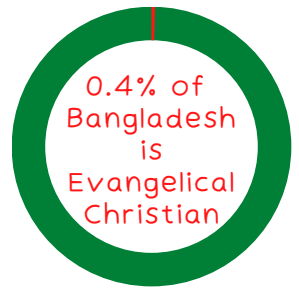
THERE IS LOTS OF CRIME IN BRAZIL,
AND IT HAS BECOME A SERIOUS
PROBLEM.

PRAY THAT THE CRIMINALS WILL
ACCEPT GOD, AND THAT HE WILL
CHANGE THEIR LIVES.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Portuguese is:
"Feliz Natal!"

Bangladesh



"The Kirtan is starting! Come quickly and get a place in the circle," my friend called to me, pointing to dance next to her.

In Bangladesh, during Christmas, we have lots of Kirtans. A singer will stand in the middle of a circle of people and sing a song. The song will start out slowly and everyone will match the speed of the song while walking around the singer. Over time, the singer will sing the song faster, and everyone in the circle will move quicker.

Near the end everyone will be half running, half dancing! Sometimes, leaders will even be weaving in and out of the circle throughout the dance!

It's lots of fun!

Pray

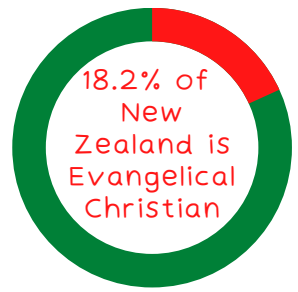
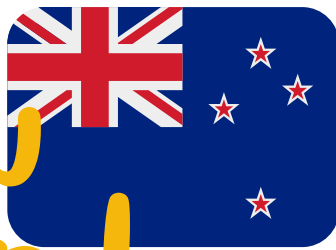
UNFORTUNATELY, MOST PEOPLE IN BANGLADESH ARE VERY POOR AND IT IS NOT EASY TO LIVE THERE.

PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP THEM THROUGH THE HARD TIMES AND THAT THERE WILL BE LESS POVERTY.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Bangla is:
"Śubha baṛadina!"

New Zealand



"Aroha, are you going to put out food for Santa and his reindeer?" my mother called from the Kitchen, where she was making Pavlova for Christmas Day.

"Yes mum, I'll put out the carrots for the reindeer. Can you please cut up the pineapple for Santa?"

In New Zealand, we leave out carrots for Santa's reindeer and pineapple for Santa. My parents might leave him a cold beer, too!

After I put out the food, I went to look at the Pōhutukawa trees. These trees are very important to New Zealand and the Maori culture. During the December holidays they bloom with beautiful red flowers!

Pray

QUITE A LOT OF MISSIONARIES COME FROM NEW ZEALAND AND GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

PRAY THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE AND THAT THERE WILL BE AN ABUNDANCE OF KIWI MISSIONARIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Māori is:
"Meri Kirihimete!"

Did you know?

HIGH SCHOOLS ARE ALLOWED TO KEEP A POUND OF URANIUM OR THORIUM ON THEIR PREMISES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, BUT THERE IS A \$1 MILLION FINE IF IT EXPLODES!

Extras



Pōhutukawa trees.

Pavlova!

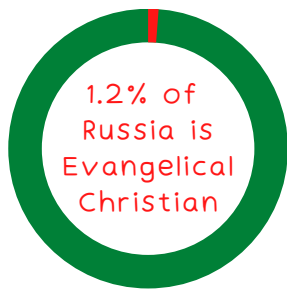


Chef Time

ASK YOUR PARENT TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND HELP YOU MAKE A YUMMY CHRISTMAS PAVLOVA!



Russia



"Can you believe we are actually getting presents this year Dimitri?" I asked my older brother.

"Yes, it has only happened once before, and you weren't even born yet!" he replied, remembering that happy day when our family hadn't seemed quite so poor.

My family are non-religious Russians, and we're very poor. Our whole family of five lives in two bedrooms which we rent from a kind old lady. Most of the people around us are better off than we are, so we don't fit in.

But this year is going to be a happy year because Operation Christmas Child is going to deliver presents from overseas for us!

On Christmas Day, we go to collect a present for each of us. In the tiny shoebox, I find a small book with the title in Russian. It says "The Holy Bible" on it. I've always been told that the Bible is just a lot of silly, made-up stories, but maybe I'll try to read it and see for myself...

Pray

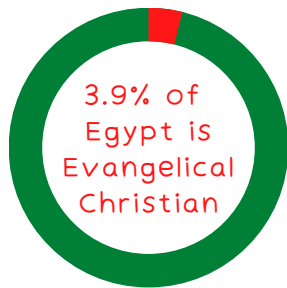
RUSSIA IS A BIG COUNTRY AND NEEDS LOTS OF CHRISTIANS TO MINISTER AND BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE.

PRAY FOR MORE EVANGELISTS TO GO AND LIVE AMONG THE RUSSIANS AND SHOW THEM THE TRUTH OF JESUS.

Say it!

**"Merry Christmas"
in Russian is:
"S Rozhdestvom!"**

Egypt



"What I wouldn't do for a fried egg right about now," I complained to my friend.

My family are observing the Coptic Orthodox Advent, which is from 25 November to 6 January, and during that time we may only eat vegan meals. No ham, chicken, eggs or even milk!

"At least you didn't try to squirm out of it this year by pretending to be sick!" Gyasi replied. People who are too weak are normally excused from following the Advent rules.

"Well, I can't wait until this is all over and we'll catch up on all that we didn't eat - maybe in just one day!" I said.

At the end of Advent, we celebrate by eating all the foods we had been avoiding.

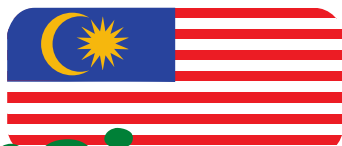
Pray

MOST MUSLIMS IN EGYPT HAVE NEVER HEARD A CHRISTIAN TELL THEM THE GOOD NEWS.

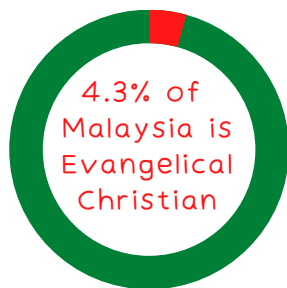
PRAY THAT THE CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT WILL BE BOLD AND WILL SHARE THE GOSPEL.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in Arabic is: "Eid Milad Majid!"



Malaysia



"Put the tree outside, in front of the window! And string the bells over the door, so that they ring when customers open it!" my father shouted to the staff. My family owns a restaurant at a popular shopping mall, and during the Christmas season, the malls have competitions for the biggest and most elaborate decorations.

"Intan, please put those boxes of chicken that just arrived in the freezer," my father then directed me.

Christmas eve is a popular day for coming to restaurants, and we often serve lots of roast chicken.

"Oh, and for all the work you've been doing for us, here is an early 'ang paus' for you!" he said, giving me a red packet.

An ang paus is a red packet filled with money, and it's a popular present in Malaysia.

Pray

ALTHOUGH MALAYSIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CHRISTIANS ARE OFTEN PERSECUTED.

PRAY THAT MALAYSIANS WILL BE TRULY FREE TO WORSHIP JESUS.

Say it!

'Merry Christmas'
in Malay is:
'Selamat Hari
Natal!'



Singapore



"There's St Andrew's Cathedral - It definitely has a life-size nativity!" I exclaimed, while pointing out the window of the car.

It was Christmas Eve and my family was looking at the many sights in our country, which is really just one big city. We visited the Christmas Theme Park and then drove to look at the lights down Orchard Road.

In the car, we had been eating a special Western food: roast turkey! But to make it taste more like our normal food, we seasoned it with ginger, and my sister also had chilli on hers.

We got home and put our presents for each other under the Christmas tree. It was decorated with ribbons, candy and teddy bears! Then, at midnight, we watched the live TV screening of the fireworks show at Marina Bay, where they do a big display every year.

Pray

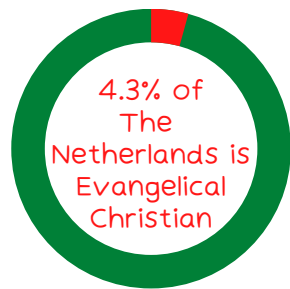
SINGAPORE HAS MANY GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE INVOLVED IN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS TO OTHER NATIONS.

PRAY THAT THERE WILL BE MANY WILLING MISSIONARIES WHO WILL GO TO THE LEAST REACHED.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Mandarin is:
"Sheng Dan Kuai Le!"

The Netherlands



"I hope I won't be taken to Spain this year when Sinterklaas comes... do you think I have been very bad this year, Mama?" I asked my mother the night before the 5th of December.

In The Netherlands, on the 5th of December, Sinterklaas visits from Madrid in Spain. He arrives in a steamboat at a different port each year, so more children can get presents.

Sinterklaas travels with his servants, two boys named Piet. If Sinterklaas finds in his big book that you were bad, the Piets will put you in a sack and take you to Spain for a year to learn your lesson.

Christmas Eve celebrations are different. On that night, Kerstman or Christmas Man, comes from Lapland, in Finland, to give yet more presents!

Pray

THE PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS WERE ONCE VERY STRONG CHRISTIANS, BUT NOW NOT MANY UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL.

PRAY THAT THEY WILL LEARN ABOUT AND PUT THEIR TRUST IN THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Dutch is:
"Vrolijk Kerstfeest!"

Extras



Chef Time!

ASK YOUR PARENT TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND HELP YOU TO MAKE PEPPERNOOT COOKIES!



Try It!

HAVE A DUTCH STYLE "PRESENT HUNT" BY ASKING YOUR PARENT TO HIDE A SMALL GIFT AND GIVE YOU CLUES TO FOLLOW TO FIND IT.

Houses by a canal



Tulip Fields

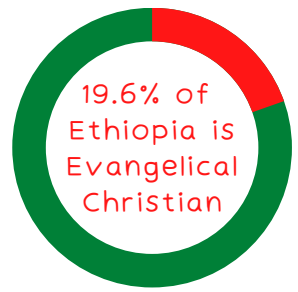


The Amsterdam Canal

Did you know?

THE NETHERLANDS IS VULNERABLE TO FLOODING. ABOUT 25% OF ITS LAND IS BELOW SEA LEVEL AND 50% IS ONLY ONE METER ABOVE IT!

Ethiopia



"Go, father! Watch out for the man behind you!" I shouted while standing in a big crowd of people who were all excitedly watching the men play 'yeferas guks'. The game is played on horseback, and the men throw spears at each other!

This happens every year around "Ganna", the Ethiopian Christmas celebration. We don't celebrate Christmas on December 25th, but instead on January 7th. Also, we do a special Advent called "The Fast of the Prophets", which lasts 40 days, starting on November 25th.

Traditionally, during the fast we only eat one meal a day, and it must be vegan. we also can't drink any wine.

In Ethiopia, people don't exchange Christmas presents, but children might get a tiny gift of clothing from their family. During Ganna, we dress up in white shawls called a Netela, which is a thin piece of cloth with brightly coloured ends.

Pray

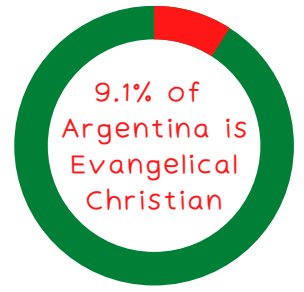
REGULAR WARS AND DROUGHT IN ETHIOPIA OVER MANY YEARS HAVE CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD BRING LASTING PEACE AND PROPERITY TO ETHIOPIA ONCE AGAIN.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Amharic is:
"MeliKami Gena!"

Argentina



"There they are!" I shouted, as soon as I saw the first "globos" rising in the night sky, signalling that it was midnight and Christmas day was here!

In Argentina, at midnight on Christmas Eve, many lanterns (a bit like Chinese lanterns) are sent up into the sky. My family and friends came out to see it, for we had invited everyone to our house, and we were staying up the whole night to spend time together. It is a fairly common Argentinian tradition to do that during Christmas.

Lots of people sleep for hours on Christmas day because they are so tired!

A few hours before midnight, we eat a big Christmas meal with some popular foods: roasted pork, roasted turkey or, in northern Argentina, roasted goat! We also eat veal with a creamy anchovy and tuna sauce, stuffed tomatoes and lots of different kinds of sandwiches.

Pray

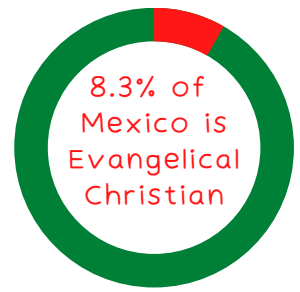
MORE THAN 500,000 PEOPLE LIVE IN THE SLUMS OF THE CAPITAL OF ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES.

PRAY THAT ARGENTINA'S LEADERS WILL FOCUS ON HELPING THE NEEDY.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Spanish is:
"Feliz Navidad!"

Mexico



"Wow! These are huge!"

My cousin from the USA was visiting my family in Mexico over Christmas, and I was showing him our "Nacimiento", an often life-size nativity set. Ours takes up a whole room of our house!

That night, with my cousin and all the neighbourhood Kids, I started getting ready for the "Posada".

We were given candles and a board with painted clay figures of Mary (riding on a donkey) and Joseph. We then walked in procession around the neighborhood, knocking at each door then singing a song about Joseph and Mary needing a place to stay. But at each door we are told that us there is no room! Finally, at one house, they let us in and we give prayers of thanks, eat food, play games and launch fireworks.

Pray

THERE ARE OVER 80,000 HOMELESS CHILDREN IN MEXICO WHO NEED HELP AND FOOD.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE THEM FAMILIES TO LOVE AND CARE FOR THEM.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in Spanish is: "Feliz Navidad!"

Extras



Did you know?

THE CAPITAL OF MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, IS SINKING! IT WAS BUILT ON TOP OF A LAKE, AND TOO MUCH WATER IS BEING DRAINED AWAY!



Mexico City

Chef Time!

ASK YOUR PARENT TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND HELP YOU MAKE MEXICAN HOT CHOCOLATE.

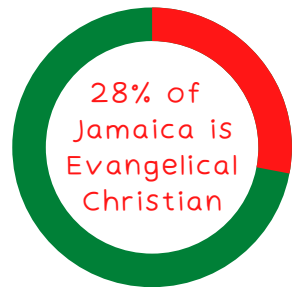


Try It!

BUILD A NATIVITY SCENE USING LEGO, CLAY OR PLASTICINE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIFE-SIZED!



Jamaica



"We're almost there!" my younger brother sang happily, as we drew closer to the "Grand Market" in our car.

In Jamaica, on Christmas Eve, huge markets and festivals appear in every town and city. At 6:00pm, the evening festival begins and everyone comes in their very best clothes to party and have fun all through the night!

The shops, streets and some houses are decorated with lights, and there are street vendors selling sweets and foods which you would normally find at a market. After the market, a few people will go to church for Midnight Mass.

Normally, the food that will be eaten on Christmas day is prepared the day before. We eat a big breakfast, which includes fish, breads, fried and boiled fruits and roots washed down with freshly squeezed orange juice.

Pray

JAMAICA HAS MORE THAN 1,500 ACTIVE CHURCHES, BUT THE SOCIETY IS DECLINING MORALLY.

PRAY THAT THE CHRISTIANS IN JAMAICA WILL SHOW WILL THE OTHER PEOPLE THEY ARE CHRISTIANS BY THEIR LOVE.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas!"

North Korea



"Ae-Cha, wake up!" my father gently whispered to me, as he shook me awake on a dark, winter morning.

It took me a moment to figure out what was going on, but then I remembered that our church had been secretly planning to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day!

We all knew how dangerous it could be. In North Korea, you can be arrested - or worse - for being a Christian.

We were halfway to our meeting place when we saw a police patrol approaching. We quickly got down low and crawled behind a bush, as the cars sped by, and then continued on our way. But, when we arrived, we realized that one of our friends had been caught by those police and was being taken to be questioned. The whole church prayed and hoped he would be all right...

Pray

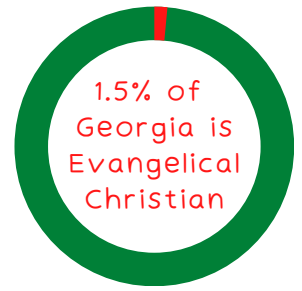
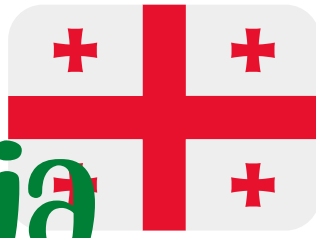
IT IS ILLEGAL TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN NORTH KOREA, AND THEY ARE PERSECUTED VERY HARSHLY.

PRAY THAT THE CHRISTIANS IN NORTH KOREA WILL BE BRAVE AND THAT THE LAWS WILL CHANGE.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Korean is:
"Meli Keuliseumaseu!"

Georgia



The "churchkhela" have been drying in the Kitchen for a few days, and I can't help but lick my lips as I see them again, and think about eating them for dessert after our Christmas meal.

Last week, my Mother and I threaded almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, and chocolate onto a string, dipped the strings in thickened fruit juices and hung them to dry in the shape of a sausage. The special Georgian sweets are eaten at Christmas and on New Years Eve. Yum!

On Christmas day in Georgia, many people take part in an "Alilo", a street parade. We like to dress up to celebrate Christmas, and some people will wear costumes to play characters from the Christmas story. We sometimes carry Georgian flags too.

Children like me particularly enjoy joining in because they get even MORE sweets!

Pray

EVEN THOUGH A LOT OF GEORGIA IS CHRISTIAN, MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE CHURCH.

PRAY THAT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in Georgian is:
"Shobas Gilotsavt!"

Extras



Try It!

MAKE A SIMPLE VERSION OF A GEORGIAN CHRISTMAS TREE CALLED A CHICHILAKI. TAKE A STRAIGHT PIECE OF SOFT WOOD, AND ASKING YOUR PARENT TO HELP YOU SHAVE LONG CURLS TO MAKE THE TREE. USE THE PHOTO TO HELP YOU.



Chef Time!

ASK YOUR PARENT TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND HELP YOU MAKE CHURCHKHELA.

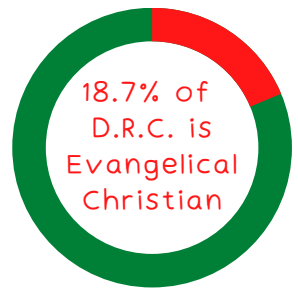


The Cathedral
at Tbilisi

Did you know?

THE DEEPEST CAVE IN THE WORLD IS IN GEORGIA! THE DEEPEST EXPLORED DEPTH IN THE KRUBERA CAVE IS 2,197 METERS!

D.R.C.



"...And the angels then sang this song for the shepherds," the narrator of the story informed us before the choir burst into a melody of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Christmas Eve is a very special night for churches. They make big musical performances featuring not just the Christmas story, but other parts of the Bible, too, starting from the Garden of Eden!

The churches try to make Jesus be born as close to midnight as they can, so the plays normally end around one in the morning!

On Christmas Day, most people try to get a better meal than they normally eat. Chicken or Pork are favourite Christmas meals but are sometimes too expensive for people to afford.

Pray

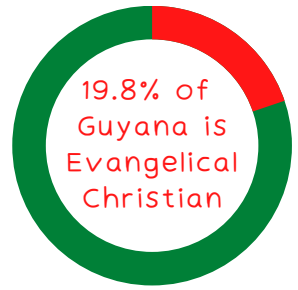
MANY PEOPLE IN THE DRG HAVE BEEN DEEPLY HURT AND AFFECTED BY WARS AND VIOLENCE.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD GIVE THEM HEALING FROM THEIR HURTS, AND LASTING PEACE

Say it!

"Merry Christmas"
in French is:
"Joyeux Noël!"

Guyana



"Please, can we be in the masquerade band this year Mother?" I begged. We had been wanting to be in a Guyanan Christmas masquerade for as long as we could remember.

My brother and I had been amazed at all the costumes and colourful outfits, and imagined what fun it would be not simply to watch the performances, but dance and make music in the streets ourselves! The days and weeks before Christmas in Guyana are very enjoyable and very LOUD!

Another Christmas tradition is that we open presents after breakfast on Christmas Day: a special stew called "Pepperpot" which is a stew that can be made out of a variety of meats, flavoured with cinnamon and with a sauce made out of cassava root.

After all the dancing I plan to do, I'm sure that on Christmas day I will be very hungry!

Pray

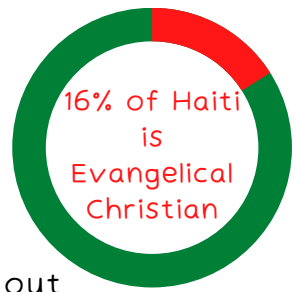
A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF GUYANA IS HINDU AND MUSLIM.

PRAY THAT THE CHRISTIANS LIVING IN GUYANA WILL SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas!"

Haiti



"Come on Jonas - I already put MY shoes out under the tree and even put the straw in. How can it take you so long to find your new shoes?" I asked my brother from the porch, where our Christmas tree was.

"I found them! They were under the bed, in a box that had toys on top of it," my brother replied a few moments later, while I sighed and laughed at my little brother's uncanny ability to lose things, even new shoes we had bought only yesterday!

In Haiti, children put a new pair of shoes under the tree with straw in them, so "Tonton Nwèl", our version of Santa, can replace the straw with presents!

My brother hurriedly put the straw into his shoes and placed them under the tree.

"Now, we can go have some fun!" I exclaimed. Here in Haiti at Christmas, people leave all the house lights on until three in the morning and Kids can go and visit other homes whenever they want. Sometimes, parents don't even know where their kids are!

Pray

ALTHOUGH CHRISTIANITY IS THE MAIN RELIGION IN HAITI, MANY PEOPLE PRACTICE WITCHCRAFT AND VOODOO.

PRAY THAT THE PEOPLE IN HAITI WILL TURN FROM EVIL AND WORSHIP GOD ALONE.

Say it!

"Merry Christmas" in Haitian Creole is: "Jwaje Nwe!"

Attributions:

Statistics on Christians from Operation World:
operationworld.org

Most facts about Christmas in different countries from:
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Chichilaki with ornaments by Irma Laghadze - Chichilaki, CC BY-
SA 2.0, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?
curid=31666128](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=31666128).

Stollen with Candied Fruits:
by Whitney - originally posted to Flickr as Stollen, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10214494>.

Picture of Gluhwein: Freepik.com.

Recipe for Stollen Bread:
[https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/our-easiest-stollen-
recipe](https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/our-easiest-stollen-recipe).

Recipe for Pavlova:
<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/12126/easy-pavlova>.

Recipe for Mexican Hot Chocolate:
[https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-
ideas/a28929619/mexican-hot-chocolate-recipe](https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a28929619/mexican-hot-chocolate-recipe).

Recipe for Churchkhela:
<https://nofrillskitchen.com/churchkhela-recipe>.

Recipe for Peppernoot:
<https://www.whychristmas.com/fun/recipe-peppernoot>.

Translations from whychristmas.com, Google Translate and
other sources.

Names of children from Kids Prayer Adventure and Wikipedia.

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