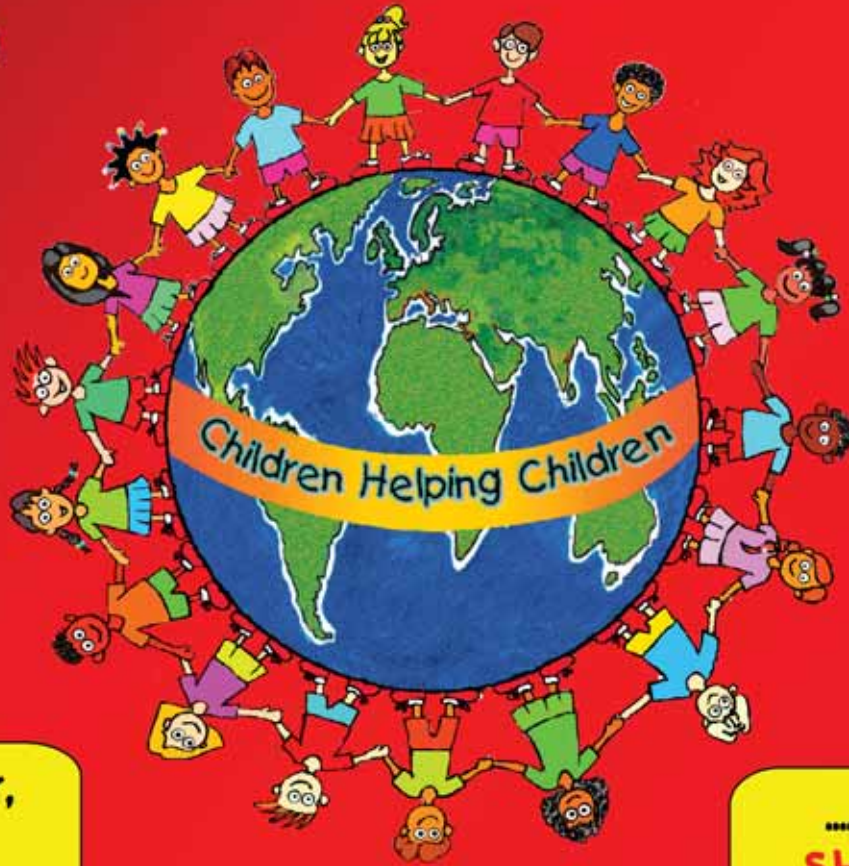


CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

Vol. 27 No. 2 2009/10



Remember,
PRAY
together.....

.....and
SHARE
together



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Dear Friends of **Missionary Children** ,

Happy NEW Year! I hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas break and a visit from a jolly man in a red suit bringing presents.


Ho!Ho!Ho!

Thank You for the wonderful support you have given the Society of Missionary Children during 2009. Many more schools have become involved since the introduction of our **National Day of Prayer for Children**. This year was no exception and we were particularly pleased to hear about schools setting aside time to pray together. We were delighted when Archbishop Diarmuid Martin participated in the day with a school in the Dublin Diocese (see photo page).

In this issue you can learn about **Ghana** and the people living there. The Society supported children in two dioceses in Ghana in 2009. Details of the projects in those dioceses will be included in our Annual Report, which is due to be published in June 2010. Other countries supported were **Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Djibouti** and **The Gambia**.

During this term you will receive details of our **First Communion Friends** initiative. This initiative was introduced in 2007. It encourages first communicants to share preparation for their big day with first communicants in the countries they support. They do this by finding out (via our website) how the other children prepare and what their special day entails. The initiative encourages our children to include their First Communion Friends in their prayers and also in their bidding prayers on their big day. All the details will be on our website by the end of January. (www.wmi.ie)

Warm wishes,



Jackie Pallas
National Secretary
Email: Jackie@wmi.ie



COLOURING COMPETITION



PALM SUNDAY



Return your entry to:

Society of Missionary Children

64 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6

before

31st March 2010



My name is:

My school is called:

My school address is:

My age/ability is:

(tick your box)

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------------|
| 4-5 | 6-7 | 8-9 | 10-11 | 12-13 | Special Ed. |
|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------------|

There are six €20 book tokens to be won

focus on... GHANA



THE COLOURS OF THE GHANAIAN FLAG

The Gold stands for the mineral rich nature of Ghana. the red is for the blood spilt in fighting for their independence. the green is for the rich vegetation. the black star is for the freedom and unity in the struggle against **colonialism**.

Go on...get your dictionary out and look up that big word

DID YOU KNOW?

Ghana has the largest man made reservoir in the whole world! It has a surface area of approximately 3,300 square miles. It's called Lake Volta



WOW
lake
the s
as cou



Every morning before school I go out gathering firewood for my family. All the children in my class do this or go to the well to get water.



..the **WHOLE** family sleep in the same room?? What about all that snoring??



Each year **Children Helping Children** runs thousands of children's projects in mission to give spiritual support to
Don't forget...**Children**
...**YOU**

the population of Ghana is 23,832,495



GOOD NEWS...



...education is free! Ghana has 12,130 primary schools, 5,450 junior secondary schools, 503 senior secondary schools. BUT..it's not compulsory to go to school and most children who DO attend only go to school for nine years.

Missionary Children supports poor families so that children can attend school instead of working to support their family. How many years will you go to school for?

Almost one third of the population survive on less than €1 a day



VI ...that is almost same size county Cork!

English is the official language but there are approximately ten other languages spoken



Many children in Ghana have been orphaned. Usually an older brother or sister has to mind the younger ones. This can mean that the older child has to drop out of school in order to try to earn some money.



This little boy is being weighed by the nurse from the mobile medical unit. It's very important to make sure the new babies are getting all the nutrients they need to grow. Missionary Children support many of these mobile medical units across Africa and Asia

Ghana has a beach that is 39 kilometres long!



This is a typical house for most families living in rural areas of Ghana. The houses are made of mud and the roof is made of banana leaves. There is only one room in this hut and the whole family eat and sleep here.

The Capital City is called ACCRA

Children around the world sends aid to poor countries. The Society also encourages children to help each other through prayer each day. Missionary Children Helping Children is... Well done!



RELIGIONS OF GHANA
69% Christian
16% Muslim
9% Traditional
6% None

Children Helping Children Lenten Activity Calendar 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Ask if you can help to make the pancakes today</p> <p>21 1st Sunday of Lent Pray for Missionaries everywhere</p> <p>28 2nd Sunday of Lent Light a candle after Mass and say a prayer for peace in the world</p> <p>7 3rd Sunday of Lent Pray for peace in your family</p> <p>14 4th Sunday MOTHERS DAY</p> <p>21 5th Sunday of Lent Pray for people who are feeling sad all the time</p> <p>28 PALM SUNDAY Read about the first Palm Sunday Luke 19:29-44</p> <p>4 EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATE! Jesus is risen</p>	<p>SHROVE TUESDAY</p> <p>22 Tidy your bedroom today</p> <p>1 Make the world a better place...SMILE!</p> <p>8 Feast of St. John of God Pray for the sick and lonely</p> <p>15 Turn off the TV for an hour and have a chat with your family instead</p> <p>22 Give your guardian angel a name</p> <p>29 Start each day with three minutes of silent prayer</p> <p><i>Lady Week</i></p>	<p>SHROVE TUESDAY</p> <p>23 Thank God for your food and pray for children who are hungry</p> <p>2 If you have a pet spend some time looking after it</p> <p>9 Phone an elderly relative for a chat</p> <p>16 Make sure that you help to keep your school tidy</p> <p>23 Help with the dishes after dinner</p> <p>30 Pray for loved ones who have died</p>	<p>17 ASH WEDNESDAY Talk to Jesus today and try not to eat snacks between meals</p> <p>24 Give someone you love a hug</p> <p>3 If you upset someone make sure to say 'sorry'</p> <p>10 Cheer up someone who is feeling sad</p> <p>17 Lá 'le Pádraig Guimis ar son na síochána</p> <p>24 Great dancer Grandad Give someone a compliment today</p> <p>31 Make sure that you don't eat your Easter Eggs until after Good Friday</p>	<p>18 Pick your favourite charity to help during Lent</p> <p>25 Pray for children who have nowhere safe to sleep</p> <p>4 Do something nice for an elderly relative or neighbour</p> <p>11 Play with someone new at school today</p> <p>18 Say a prayer for the teachers in your school</p> <p>25 Look in a mirror and see how beautiful and unique God has made you</p> <p>1 April Fools Day Have fun but stay kind ALWAYS!</p>	<p>19 Thank God for all the little creatures on our planet</p> <p>26 Share your sweets</p> <p>5 Women's World Day of Prayer</p> <p>12 Before you go to sleep say a prayer of thanks for the people who love you</p> <p>19 Gather up your old toys and give them to charity</p> <p>26 Turn off the tap, don't waste water and thank God that you have safe water to drink...</p> <p>2 GOOD FRIDAY Pray at the stations of the cross</p>	<p>20 Get up early and help to tidy the house</p> <p>27 Pray for Irish people who have lost their jobs</p> <p>6 Get up early to listen to the birds singing and say a prayer of thanks</p> <p>13 If you get treats today, share them</p> <p>20 1st Day of Spring ...plant some flowers today</p> <p>27 ...and turn off lights not in use, many children in third world countries have no electricity</p> <p>3 HOLY SATURDAY Pray for children who are living with poverty and fear</p>

You can photocopy and enlarge this page for the children in your class

God calls us to work together to look after our world and share what we have so that everyone has what they need. Building a better world is not just about having more money, it's about respecting yourself and others, it's about becoming the best person you can be.

Missionary Children is the Church's official charity for children's missions overseas. It helps more than 4 million children worldwide each year. It's unique motto is *Children Helping Children*