



Club VBS 2013 Jungle Jaunt

Day 1: Missions Story

Growing Jalapeños, Sharing Jesus

Sometimes the best ideas can come from a plate of Mexican food. Eli Martin,* an IMB missionary in Kosovo, has proof.

Before coming to Kosovo, a country in southeast Europe above the country of Greece, Martin lived in Texas and loved jalapeños (hot chili peppers) with his Mexican food. But when he ordered Mexican food in restaurants in Kosovo, they never had any jalapeños. The restaurant owners told Martin they could sometimes get jalapeños from Germany, but they were expensive.

Martin asked restaurant owners if they would buy jalapeños if he grew them. They all said yes. Just like that, Martin became Kosovo's jalapeño supplier. He got his dad to mail him seeds from America, and a neighbor offered to grow them on his pepper farm. It was a good project for Martin's neighbor because he could sell the jalapeños for four times the price of normal peppers.

Many people in Kosovo are very poor. Some families have even sent their sons to other countries to work and send back money. They couldn't find jobs close to their homes. But now those families can grow and sell jalapeños and even preserve them by canning. Now they have a new way to make money, more than they could make growing other vegetables. Restaurants around Martin's city buy the peppers, and the local grocery store sells them, too.

This is part of a project called OneLife that involves students from the U.S. who spend several months overseas helping people and sharing the love of Jesus. Thanks to One Farm, part of the OneLife effort, families now have food and firewood to get through the winter. Martin prays that this project will grow to serve as many people as possible. He helped two families last year. He hopes to help even more this year with the support of students from America.

A new group of OneLife students will be going to Kosovo soon to help put up a greenhouse and start jalapeños. Other students will help farmers harvest the peppers and teach them how to market them to make a profit. Through their service, the students help families hurt by poverty, hunger, and cold. Something as simple as growing jalapeños has helped develop friendships to tell about God, the Creator.

As this One Farm project continues to bless families, Martin has more opportunities to share the good news. God took his craving for jalapeños and shaped it into an opportunity to share God's story.

OneLife allows students to work with IMB missionaries to show the love of God by meeting people's physical needs. OneLife places students in areas where people do not know Jesus and gives them opportunities to share the gospel. To learn more, go to onelifematters.org.

*Name changed

Source: www.onelifematters.org. Used by permission of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Club VBS 2013 Jungle Jaunt

Day 2: Missions Story

Help Meet Needs by Kristen White

The mission team was knocking on doors in a poor neighborhood. Some of the children didn't have a warm winter coat. The team wanted to make sure all the children got one. A boy at one of the homes was very excited to have a new coat. "We're having a special service tomorrow at Calvary Baptist Church," the mission team volunteer explained. "It's a Christmas service. We'd love for you to come," she told the boy.

The next day, missionary Bill Barker, director of Appalachian Regional Ministry (ARM), drove to Calvary Baptist Church. He was helping the mission team with the Christmas service. The boy who received the coat was there. And there were 11 other children from the neighborhood where the coats were given out.

Bill was getting ready to give the message during the service. The pastor whispered to him, "Bill, these children have never heard Jesus' name before. This will be the first time they have ever heard the Christmas story from the Bible." Bill could hardly believe his ears. These children lived in the United States! Bill was sad they had never heard, but he was happy that he was the one to tell them about Jesus.

Bill helps people all over Appalachia. Appalachia is an area of the country that has some very poor communities. In these towns, people don't have enough food, clothes, or other items to meet their basic needs.

One of ARM's most important ministries is serving meals. Many children don't have enough to eat, especially in the summer when school is out. Bill tells mission teams, "Let's do a Bible club, but let's feed the children when they are with us." Some children walk two miles to attend Bible club and to eat a meal from the mission teams.

Matthew 14:14, says that as Jesus stepped ashore from a boat, He saw a huge crowd. He felt compassion for them and healed their sick. Then Jesus fed the hungry crowd with five loaves of bread and two fish that a boy gave Him. Jesus met the physical needs of the people. As Christians, we give money and help people in poverty because that is what God wants us to do.

When we sit down to eat a meal or grab a jacket to put on, we usually don't think about people who don't have enough food or warm coats. However, when we realize there are people who don't have their needs met, it makes us want to pray, give, and go. Will you pray with me for people in poverty, and for missionaries and mission teams who are helping to meet those needs?

Source: Adapted from SnackPack Lesson "Help Meet Needs" by Kristen White.
Used by permission of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Club VBS 2013 Jungle Jaunt

Day 3: Missions Story

God Cares for Everyone

Not everyone grows up with parents who love them. Not everyone grows up feeling wanted and valued. But IMB (International Mission Board) missionary Susan Quaid* has been able to show the love of Jesus to women and children in Thailand who feel like no one cares for them.

Susan and her husband, Ken,* have lived in Thailand for 14 years. They have served with the Thai government as foster parents for most of that time. The Quaid's work with a government orphanage to receive children who are weak or sick. Once the children are healthy and strong, the Quaid's help find loving homes for them. Often, as many as 10 children are living with Susan and her family at one time.

The Quaid's have other missionary responsibilities in Thailand as part of a larger ministry by IMB missionaries who reach out to women at risk. The Quaid's have regularly paid local women to help care for these children, with the Thai government providing some funds. Recently though, they started training female prisoners to be nannies for the children. The Thai government allows women who have behaved well in prison to live with the Quaid's and help with the children. Right now, two prisoners are staying with the Quaid's, and they hope to have two more living with them soon.

The prison coordinator was very thankful that the Quaid's wanted the women. No one had given the women a chance like this before for a job. Now Christians in the community come to the Quaid's house to love and serve both the children and the nannies. They show Jesus' love by caring for the women and telling them about Jesus. Their kindness shows the women they have value because they are created in God's image.

As Christians have loved and accepted the female prisoners, the rest of the local Thai community has followed their example. Instead of feeling like outcasts, the prisoners are beginning to feel accepted again in their communities. The Quaid's are amazed at how many lives are being touched by this ministry. Caring for babies that needed love led to a work with young women in prison. The Quaid's home has become a crossroads of care, and others from the Christian community in the city of Chiang Mai can now come to show love to the children and the young prisoners.

We can be thankful to God for missionaries like Susan and Ken who are obeying God by caring for others. Through their work, they have seen their community changed by God.

*Name changed

Source: <http://asiastories.com>. Used by permission of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Club VBS 2013 Jungle Jaunt

Day 4: Missions Story

Who Is Your Hero? by Frank Green

Having a hero is OK. A good hero can influence you to do the best you can. You often look at a hero and want to do what he or she has done. Sometimes you choose your heroes because of the way they have treated you.

Have you ever had a hero who turned out not to be a good role model? Were you disappointed by what the person did or said? It is important to recognize that our heroes may not be perfect. They may let us down because things may happen to them or they may not be the good person we thought they were.

Missionary Ron Climer once searched for a hero. Ron did not grow up in a Christian home. In his large family, Ron did not have a good role model or a hero at home. Ron moved around from school to school and was always getting into fights with other kids. He was arrested for stealing when he was 8 years old, and he ran away from home at the age of 10.

Ron was looking for peace and joy for his life. He needed someone to turn to, but he found no one. Through his teen years and early 20s, Ron turned to drugs. He was trying to fill the emptiness inside, but nothing was working.

When he was 24, Ron was a heroin addict. He was with a friend out in a parking lot. A man was telling Ron's friend about Jesus. Ron overheard the gospel and believed. He asked Jesus to be his Lord and Savior. Ron now had a hero to look to—Jesus. Ron says, "When I met Jesus, I found everything I had been looking for in all the wrong places. I realized that everyone is looking for Jesus. They just do not know it."

Ron Climer knew immediately that God had called him to be a missionary. Ron fought that call for three years because he did not like school. He knew he needed to study to be able to follow God's leadership, so finally he went back to school. Missionary Ron has now been a missionary for over 28 years. He has many ministry tasks to do.

The ministry that is very close to Ron's heart is the one he does with the Fresno County California Probation Department. Ron is the Senior Chaplain there. He works with over 300 volunteers and 18 other chaplains who mentor kids in trouble with the law, kids who are like Ron was growing up.

The volunteers and chaplains counsel the families of these kids and do everything they can to build relationships. Around fourteen thousand kids come through the Probation Department in Fresno every year. They need positive role models. They need heroes. Ron and his crew try to give them that. They also point the kids to the best hero they could have—Jesus. Many of these kids find Jesus because of Ron and the others.

Adapted from the SnackPack Lesson "Who Is Your Hero?" by Frank Green.
Used by permission of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Club VBS 2013 Jungle Jaunt

Day 5: Missions Story

God's Eternal Home

No matter if you are rich or poor, if you have a huge house or no house at all, Jesus still loves you. When Kiyoshi Sugioka (Key-OH-she Sue-gee-OH-kah) of Japan felt like he was losing all hope, God used a missionary to share this good news message with him and led him to trust Jesus as his Savior.

In 2008, Kiyoshi was a manager for a large Japanese business. His company was making lots of money, and so was Kiyoshi. Even though he worked from early morning to late at night and rarely saw his family, Kiyoshi was content. But in the summer of 2008, everything changed. One of his employees made a bad decision that cost the company a great deal of money. Kiyoshi lost everything, including his job and his house.

Kiyoshi was homeless for two months, sleeping in a park in downtown Tokyo. During that time, he met Josh Park, an International Mission Board missionary seeking to serve the 4,000 homeless people in Tokyo. Josh gave Kiyoshi a cup of coffee and his phone number, but then the two lost contact with each other.

Kiyoshi didn't think he needed to keep in touch with Josh because he had just found another job. However, the economy forced him to be laid off only a few months later. Not only was he homeless again, but Kiyoshi also had lost the respect of his family, friends, and former co-workers because he didn't have a job or a house. Kiyoshi felt like he had nowhere to turn. Then he remembered the missionary. He called Josh and asked to meet him to talk.

When they met, Kiyoshi told Josh about his life. Then he asked Josh to tell him about God. After Josh shared the story of Jesus, Kiyoshi prayed to receive Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized a few weeks later. Now, even though he has a place to live and a job, Kiyoshi still participates in a small group for homeless people. He has new friends through his church who encourage him to keep living for God. And in his new job, Kiyoshi looks for opportunities to tell his co-workers about Jesus.

Kiyoshi realizes that life is about more than getting as much money and respect as you can. He sees now how Jesus loved him when he was at his poorest and weakest, and he wants to share that same love and respect with the people he meets.

Source: <http://asiastories.com>. Used by permission of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.