

It was almost FIVE YEARS AGO when we produced the first World Kids PAL Page! We have written about what life is like for children in dozens of different countries, and now you can see all our past issues any time or learn about any particular country by going to the PAL Page downloads page on our website www.imofinc.org

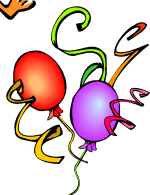
There are still many more countries to write about and we plan to share new PAL Pages every few months, but we decided it is time to share some other special fun pages and projects with you each month as well, and so we've changed the name to World Kids PAL Project instead! It's exciting because each month it will look different and have fascinating facts about countries around the world, bible truths, puzzles and true stories. God has enabled us to reach children now in many countries around the world, especially in parts of Africa and India, so as you read it each month, you can say a prayer for all the other children who are enjoying it too!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We could soon be planning to celebrate the 5th birthday of the PAL Page! In many countries children look forward to their birthday more than any other holiday in the year - because it is especially for THEM! They may have a party or birthday cake, and if any gifts are brought, they are for the birthday boy or girl!



But in many parts of the world, children have no idea which date is their birthday - and some do not even know exactly how many years old they are! Many poor families do not record when children are born but instead wait for maybe four or five years to see if the new baby will survive, before giving it a name! Children who are orphaned or abandoned at an early age also often have no idea how old they are. And did you know that in some countries like **China**, everyone celebrates their birthday on New Years Day even if it is not the official date of their birthday? So everyone gets another year older on the SAME day!



Can you think of any stories in the bible that tell about a birthday party? I can find two - in **Genesis 40:20** and **Matthew 14:6**. Both parties were given for kings but if you read these stories you find that in each case someone got killed!!



Birthday celebrations are an ancient European tradition which developed as attempts to keep away evil spirits, which people believed were attracted to a person celebrating their birthday!

The act of giving gifts and well-wishing, follows this.

Germany is considered by historians as the first place where birthday parties for kids were held and called kinderfest.

Kinder means child and feste means festival or party.

Hindu children only celebrate their birthdays once they have reached the age of 16 years. Until then however, they do not go to school on their birthdays. Instead, a birthday is observed with a religious ceremony where a priest blesses a child.

In **Serbia** people do not necessarily celebrate their personal birthdays; instead they celebrate Krsno Ime, or Krsna Slava. The Slava is a unique holiday of the Serbian people; it is both a religious and an ethnic institution and is the celebration of the Serbs adopting the Christian faith.



See if you can match up these "Happy Birthday" greetings with the correct language from the list below!

1. Tavalodet Mobarak!
2. Nuununnu pilluarit!
3. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag
4. Feliz Aniversario
5. Otanjyobi omedeto Gozaimasu!
6. Eed melad said
7. Saeng il chuk ha ham ni da!
8. Janam Din Ki Badhai
9. Yom Huledet Same'ach!
10. Medzi dzigbe njkeke nyuie no wo



Arabic – Brazilian – Hebrew – Persian – Korean
German – Greenlandic – Japanese - Hindi - Ewé



I was born a few days after Christmas and grew up in **England** where the winters are cold. A couple of years later, my sister was born in July, and when we were children, I always remember being a bit jealous of her because for HER birthday party she always had ice-cream as a treat, but I NEVER could have it for MY party - because back then, ice-cream was only available in England in the summer! As we've already learned over the past few years, life for children varies a great deal around the world and so there are many different birthday customs that have also developed!

In **Argentina** guests pull on the earlobes of the birthday boy or girl for each year of their birthday, and in **Ireland** the birthday child is held by his/her arms and legs and bumped on the ground once for each year of age! Nowadays in many countries children celebrate with birthday parties at a skating rink or special restaurant, or with special entertainment. In **Russia** children play a game that features a clothesline - prizes are hung from it and each guest cuts down a prize to take home! In many **Latin American countries** no birthday party is complete without a PIÑATA!! Figures of animals or cartoon characters are usually made from bamboo, covered with paper maché and decorated with tissue paper. The children take turns to beat the piñata with a stick until it is broken and the candy that was hidden inside falls on the ground. When we lived in rural **Central Mexico** where most of the people were very poor, sometimes piñatas were home-made using clay pots - which were a lot more dangerous!



Some birthdays are very special as they mark certain stages in a child's life - such as a child can attend school once reaching his/her 4th or 5th birthday; and after your 18th birthday in the **USA** you are allowed to vote.



In many cultures, after boys reach their 12th birthday they go through a special ceremony that makes them considered as men. **Jewish** boys have a special religious service called a "bar-mitzvah" about this time, but in some countries the traditions include spending nights alone in the jungle, passing through brutal tests, or being cut on the body with knives!! That doesn't sound much like a fun birthday party! So next time you feel sad because your birthday celebration didn't turn out as good as you hoped, think about how it might have been if you lived in another country! And even if you don't know WHEN your birthday is, don't worry, because GOD has known you and loved you since even BEFORE you were born! Just read **Psalm 139:15-17** !!

'Til next time,
love from your friend, Shirley



How many balloons can you find altogether in this issue?

Facts from: www.birthdaycelebrations.net

Answer to puzzle 1- Persian; 2-Greenlandic; 3-German; 4-Brazilian; 5-Japanese; 6-Arabic; 7-Korean; 8-Hindi; 9-Hebrew; 10-Ewé

Number of balloons - 22 World Kids PAL Project is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX. Tel: (903) 889-2233

E-mail: shirley@imofinc.org www.imofinc.org

