



World Kids

Fun for kids! true stories!



PAL Project

Number 26 - July 2010

No matter where you visit around the world, probably the most common greeting you will hear is "How are you?" We are all concerned that our friends and families are well and not sick - because we all get sick from time to time, and it doesn't feel good does it? When we get sick our body hurts, we feel bad and we don't want to do anything but go to bed! Sometimes we feel SO BAD we feel we are dying! Fortunately our Heavenly Father, who created us in the beginning, made our bodies so that most times they can heal themselves while we rest, and within a few days we are back to normal and really feeling good again!



But there are many things in this world that can hurt us or make us sick and so sometimes we have to go to see a doctor. Doctors have to study for many years because there are things that can go wrong with every different part of our body and so there are many different illnesses or diseases for them to learn about and try to heal. Maybe you can think of some illnesses you or your family have had - here are a few common ones no matter where you live in the world: "common cold" or flu; an infected wound; diarrhea; chicken pox; allergy; "pink eye"; food poisoning.... Sometimes if it is a common sickness, our mother or

grandmother has a good idea what might help us get better, but sometimes we don't know what has caused it and so if we can go to a doctor or clinic, tests can be done to find out what is the real problem.

But for many people around the world this is not possible - for example in **Central African Republic** there is only ONE main hospital for the whole country of over 4 MILLION people! In **Liberia** there are reported to be only 51 doctors for the whole country, and in **Mozambique** there are only 548 doctors for more than 22 MILLION people (that's about one doctor for every 40,000 people). In the **United States** there are 230 doctors per 100,000 people - but in many African countries there are less than FOUR per 100,000!! Of course for the billions of people around the world who live far from a large town or city, transportation is so difficult that if they get seriously ill, it is often impossible to get them to a doctor in time!



Many years ago when I was a child there were several childhood diseases that almost EVERY child caught at some time - including MEASLES, MUMPS and CHICKENPOX. These quickly spread among children in school and to other family members, and were very uncomfortable causing fever, itching and other symptoms - and at times led to serious complications, even death. Thankfully nowadays vaccinations have been developed to prevent children from getting these diseases in many countries, but where there are few clinics or healthworkers available to give the vaccinations, still thousands of children suffer. We must pray for more vaccination programs in poor countries!



It is reported that HALF of all deaths from infectious diseases in the world are from TUBERCULOSIS, HIV/AIDS and MALARIA - and HALF the world's population is at risk of catching malaria, mostly in the many tropical regions from **Mexico** to **Malaysia** and especially in **Africa**! Malaria is one of many horrible diseases that are spread by mosquitoes who bite the skin and pass on infected blood from one person to another, and when people (especially children) are already not eating enough good food, getting malaria repeatedly can make them very weak and even die. But now it is known that mosquitoes are the problem, people around the world are making changes to help prevent malaria and other such diseases. Many countries are introducing programs with teaching, insecticides, and giving families special mosquito nets - and even within just 3-4 years, there are encouraging results such as in **Bangladesh** where the number of malaria deaths has reduced dramatically.

Two-thirds of the 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS live in Sub-Saharan Africa where 14 million children are orphans because of it



There are other frightening diseases that have killed millions of people, such as CHOLERA, which spreads very quickly in areas where many people live close together and there is very poor sanitation and unclean drinking water - such as in **India, Africa, Russia** and wherever there is a war or natural disaster causing people to have to live in temporary camps. In fact there are a great many different diseases and parasites that can be passed on from person to person where there is poor hygiene. But studies show that if people would just develop some simple good habits, much of this sickness can be avoided! Germs that spread disease can be killed by simply **WASHING OUR HANDS PROPERLY** with soap after using the bathroom and before eating or touching any food!! **THAT** is something that most of us can do without too much trouble! Can **YOU?** Another thing is to make sure we have safe drinking water - for many people this is difficult, but if a home or village can introduce a simple method of purifying the water it can literally save **MANY** lives and a lot of sickness can be avoided. Finally, toilets need to be hygienic and the waste matter dealt with properly so that land and drinking water are not contaminated.



In many parts of the world because the people do not understand what causes sickness and disease, they have come to believe many superstitions and turn to witchdoctors to help them. Some plants and herbs can be used to help bring healing, but many "cures", incantations and trances used by shamans are just superstitious beliefs that often do more harm than good. But what can people do if they are far from a hospital or doctor and they become very ill? Well, the Bible tells us that our Heavenly Father created us in the beginning, so **HE** knows exactly what the problem is even if we (or the doctors) don't! The Bible also tells us that **JESUS** came and healed people of every kind of disease and sickness, and by dying on the Cross he took our sicknesses so that we can be healed (**1 Peter 2:24**). If you read the story of Naaman in **2 Kings chapter 5** you will see that this rich general suffered from the terrible disease of **LEPROSY**, which had no cure at that time and was probably the most feared illness. He went to ask the man of God what to do to be healed, and the reply was to dip seven times in the River Jordan. At first he was angry and did not want to do so, but finally he obeyed and was completely healed. It was **NOT** because the water was magic or special, but because he trusted God's Word and obeyed - that is what faith is. Peter and John in **Acts 3** had nothing with which they could help the crippled beggar who had never walked - except that they believed that Jesus could heal him. Read the story and see what happened!



Scripture Scramble

See if you can unscramble each word to discover an important scripture to memorize!

RAISEP HET ORDL O YM OULS NDA ORGETF OTN LLA ISH ENEFITSB HOW
 ORGIVESF LLA OURY INSS NDA EALSH LLA OURY ISEASESD

Recently I read an amazing book called *Even Donkeys Speak*, published by Gospel for Asia (www.gfa.org), which has lots of true testimonies of miracles God has done in recent years in Asia. One of them tells of a couple in India who had never heard the Gospel. The wife had a huge infected sore (called a boil) on her ankle, so they prayed and gave sacrifices to their idols asking for healing. They went to the local witchdoctor who sold them a special medicine, but that didn't work, so they visited the local Hindu priests with a sacrifice but the boil only grew bigger. One day over the radio they heard a clear voice say "Jesus is able to heal any sickness" and the man went on to say he would pray for the sick. The couple looked at each other in amazement and quickly prayed along with the radio voice asking Jesus to heal the boil - and as they prayed they felt the boil shrinking! When they opened their eyes it was gone completely!! They decided to worship only Jesus and learn more about Him. As they shared the miracle with the village more people wanted to know about Jesus and gathered every day in their home to listen to the radio program and learn of God. Some time later when a Christian evangelist came to the village he was amazed to find several families who were already following Jesus although they had only learned of Him from the radio - but they had believed in faith and received a healing miracle! 'Til next time,

Your Friend, Shirley

Facts from various websites including: www.infoplease.com Answer to Scripture Scramble: Psalm 103:2-3

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