

Grades  
to  
**K2**



# It's **OUR** **World**

HCA Mission News

Focus: Asia

Advent & Christmas 2010

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## Missionary to the Far East

Francis Xavier was born in 1506 in Spain. When he was a college student, he made friends with a man who would change his life – Ignatius Loyola. Both men became priests and started a religious community called the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

In 1541, Father Ignatius asked Father Francis to sail to Goa on the west coast of India to share the “Good News” of Jesus with the people who lived there. He next went to the southern tip of India, where he introduced many people to the Catholic faith. Later, he traveled to the East Indies – to Malacca and the Moluccas – and then to Japan, in 1549, making him the first missionary to preach the Gospel there! On all his journeys, his greatest possession was his prayer book.

Father Francis wanted very much to announce the Gospel in China, at that time closed to outsiders. When he finally was able to get there, with the help of a ship’s captain, he became very ill. He died not long after arriving in China, on December 3, 1552. His body was brought back to Goa in India and buried there. To honor his memory, the people of Goa built a great church, which is today known as the Shrine of Bom Jesus (Good Jesus).

He was made a saint of the Church – along with his friend, Ignatius Loyola – on March 12, 1622. St. Francis Xavier is co-patron of missionaries and the Missions along with St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Just the facts...

# Asia

Asia is the largest continent – with nearly one-third of the world's total land area

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Asia is home to more than half the people on our planet – with a population of four billion

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Asia has the earth's highest point (Mount Everest) and its lowest (the Dead Sea)

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Asia is home to the Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world

## Did You Know?

The Asian elephant is not only big and strong, but also very intelligent. Ancient Indian armies rode into battle on trained elephants. Today people still use them to carry heavy loads or for transportation. Sadly, the elephant's natural habitat is shrinking. Some countries have set up large reserves to protect this endangered animal.

## Test Your Geography Skills!

How much do you know about Asia? Take this quiz to find out or use an encyclopedia, atlas or globe to help you find the correct answers. Then, check your answers with your teacher!

- \_\_\_\_\_ is part of Asia.
  - Europe
  - Alaska
  - China
  - Earth
- Asia is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Planet
  - City
  - Ocean
  - Continent
- Asia was settled in 2006.
  - True
  - False
- Asia shares a border with North America.
  - True
  - False
- Which of the following would be the best travel option for someone traveling from Arkansas to India?
  - Train
  - Automobile
  - Polly Power!
  - Airplane
- Which mountain range is located in Asia?
  - The Himalayas
  - The Appalachian Mountains
  - The Rocky Mountains
  - The Smoky Mountains
- The state of Texas is \_\_\_\_\_ Asia.
  - Smaller than
  - The same size as
  - Bigger than
  - None of the above
- Which of the following cities is located in Asia?
  - Chicago
  - New York City
  - Mexico City
  - Beijing
- Choose a country that you might like to visit in Asia. Why did you choose the country that you did? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## The School That Love Built

Thanks to your donations to the Holy Childhood Association, local Sisters have built a small nursery school in Kerala, India, for some 30 children. On Sundays and evenings, the Sisters use the building to teach religion and for prayer time with the children.

“Thank you so much for your help and prayers,” said Sister Philemon. “We ask God to bless all the children in the United States who helped us to build this school.”



## Mission Snapshot

Sister Lena lives and works in Thailand. She teaches children and their families about the "Good News" of Jesus.

Don't forget to enter our annual Christmas Artwork Contest! All entries must be submitted by January 31, 2011. For complete rules and entry form visit [www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca](http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca).

## Prayers for Pakistan

You may have read or heard news reports this summer about very heavy rain and flooding in Pakistan. Pakistan is a country located in South Asia. More than 20 million people have been affected by this disaster. That is about the same number of people that live in the entire state of New York!

Father Mario Rodrigues is the national director of the Holy Childhood Association in Pakistan. He wrote to our national office to thank you for your prayers for the people in his country and asked that you continue to pray for them – *especially the children*.

## Advent Mission Prayer

Dear God, in this Advent Season, help us to remember children in the world who do not know the name, "Jesus," or His great love for each one of us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may be courageous missionaries of the "Good News" just like St. Francis Xavier. Amen.