

Grades
to
K2



It's OUR World

HCA Mission News  Focus: Senegal  Lent 2010

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Finding God at the Doctor's Office

Do you remember the first time you went to the doctor for a check-up? How about your first shot? Were you afraid? Did you cry? At a small mission clinic in Dakar, Senegal, children and babies get check-ups and shots too! If they cry, they get hugs from their parents *and* the missionary Sisters who run the clinic. Each time you say a prayer for children in the Missions or make an offering to HCA, it's like you're right there with these Sisters, giving out more and more hugs!



In a school near the clinic, the Sisters also teach the children to read and write in the official language of their country, French. The children learn how to say prayers, and they get ready for the Sacraments, such as First Holy Communion.

"Every Sunday our church is bursting at the seams," said Sister Jean, who runs the clinic. "The people here are filled with great faith."



- ^ Babies are weighed to make sure that they are receiving enough to eat.
- < These are just some of the children who are taught by the Sisters in Dakar.

YOU Make a Difference in Senegal!

Your generous donations to HCA have helped the Church in Senegal to distribute religious education books to more than 6,000 children! With these books, children learn about the "Good News" of Jesus and how to prepare for the Sacraments.



Meet Seynabou, Your Sister in Christ

This is Seynabou. When she was seven months old, her grandmother brought her to a small mission hospital in Thies, Senegal. At that time, she weighed only about nine pounds because she did not have enough food to eat.

Thanks to the care she received from Sisters at the hospital, Seynabou got much better. Today she lives with her grandmother and comes to visit the Sisters to receive regular medical check-ups.

The money that you offer to HCA helps children such as Seynabou and many others throughout Senegal and throughout the Missions. Thanks!

Get the facts... Senegal

Senegal is located in Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. It is the westernmost country on the African continent.



The country is about the size of the state of South Dakota.



People who live in Senegal are called Senegalese.



About five percent of Senegalese are Catholic.



French is the official language of Senegal.

Easter

The Road to Easter

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday people welcomed him with joy and treated him like a king. These happy feelings did not last very long. We know that not long after Jesus was welcomed like a king on Palm Sunday, He was arrested, put in jail and then put to death on the Cross.

But the story does not end there. The story has a joyous ending. We know that on the third day, Jesus fulfilled His promise to save us from sin by rising from the dead. We celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.



**Palm
Sunday**



Start

See if you can recall in order all of the events that occurred from the time Jesus entered Jerusalem to the time He died on the Cross at Calvary. Cut out the squares on the bottom of this page and glue them on the "road" in the correct order. When you have glued all of the squares in place, check your work with your teacher.

Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

Jesus prays in the garden at Gethsemane.

Jesus is wrapped in linen cloth.

Jesus is questioned by Pilot.

Jesus and His disciples celebrate the Passover Feast together.

Peter denies knowing Jesus.

Darkness falls over all the Earth at Noon.

Jesus is arrested.

Jesus is made to wear a crown of thorns.

Simon of Cyrene is asked to help Jesus carry His Cross.

Jesus heals a Roman soldier whose ear was cut off by one of Jesus' followers.



Hearts on a Cross Easter Craft

Our faith teaches us that Jesus loves us so much He died on the Cross for us. Complete this craft with help from your family to remind you of the great love of Jesus.

+ Materials:

cross template (this page), candy hearts, glue, scissors, magnetic tape (optional / available at most craft stores), ribbon (optional)

+ Preparation:

- 1) Cut out the cross template on this page and use it as a guide to help you cut out your cardboard cross. If making a hanging ornament, poke a hole in the top of the cardboard cross and attach the ribbon first. If making a refrigerator magnet, attach magnetic tape to the back of the cross before moving on to the next step.
- 2) Select about seven candy hearts to be glued to your cross with words that help you remember how much Jesus loves us. Here are some examples: "Only You," "True Love," "Forever," "Be Mine," etc. Glue the hearts on the cross so you can see those words.
- 3) As the glue is drying discuss the following questions with your family:
 1. How does a cross remind us about God's love?
 2. How is our love for Jesus different from our love for pizza or candy?
 3. How can we show our love for Jesus?
 4. Why is a heart a symbol for love?

HCA Lent Prayer

Dear Lord,

You gave us Your only Son so that we might have eternal life. Help us to treasure our gift of faith as we share it with children throughout the world. May our prayers and the offerings we make to HCA this Lent help make a real difference in the lives of others, especially the children in Senegal who have not yet heard about the "Good News" of Jesus. Amen.

Thank You!

Thank you for your prayers and help through HCA this school year. I look forward to bringing you more news from the Missions next year through the *It's Our World* newsletter. Don't forget, you can visit our kids' website this summer (with your parents' permission) at www.hcakids.org to continue learning about your brothers and sisters – and my missionary friends – around the world!

Polly

