

Grades  
to  
**K2**



# It's OUR World

HCA Mission News  Focus: Zimbabwe  Lent / Easter 2011

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## Just like YOU – in Zimbabwe!!

Thanks to your love and prayers, children from Gweru, Zimbabwe, are learning about the “Good News” of Jesus – the news that He loves each one of us! And, just like you, HCA kids there say prayers and offer sacrifices for their brothers and sisters in other places in the Missions.



Holy Childhood groups from the diocese of Gweru in Zimbabwe

“The Holy Childhood Association is one of the biggest groups in our diocese,” said Sister Evelyn, a local missionary. “Children who belong to HCA visit the sick, gather for prayer, and take turns reading the Bible to each other.”

Sister Evelyn told us the young people from Gweru are very happy to share their love of

Jesus with others, and even though they are poor, they give what they can to help others in need.

The offerings you share with HCA help Sister Evelyn provide uniforms and simple meals to the poorest HCA members where she lives.



## Meet Your Brother in Christ, James Moonga

James lives in Monze in Zambia, a country in the southern part of Africa. He is a fourth grader at St. Charles Lwanga School.

James is also a member of the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). Here, James is enjoying a lunch of beans, cabbage and *nsima*, a thick porridge made from cornmeal. It is a basic food for the people of Zambia.

Thanks to your contributions to HCA, James is learning about Jesus – and how to pray the World Mission Rosary – which he wears proudly around his neck. You can learn more about the World Mission Rosary too – even pray it online! – by visiting [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org).

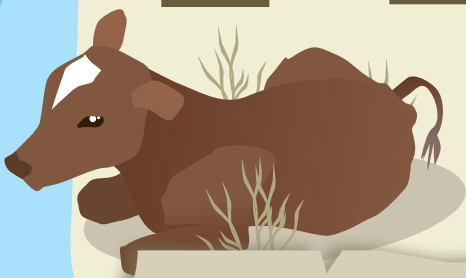
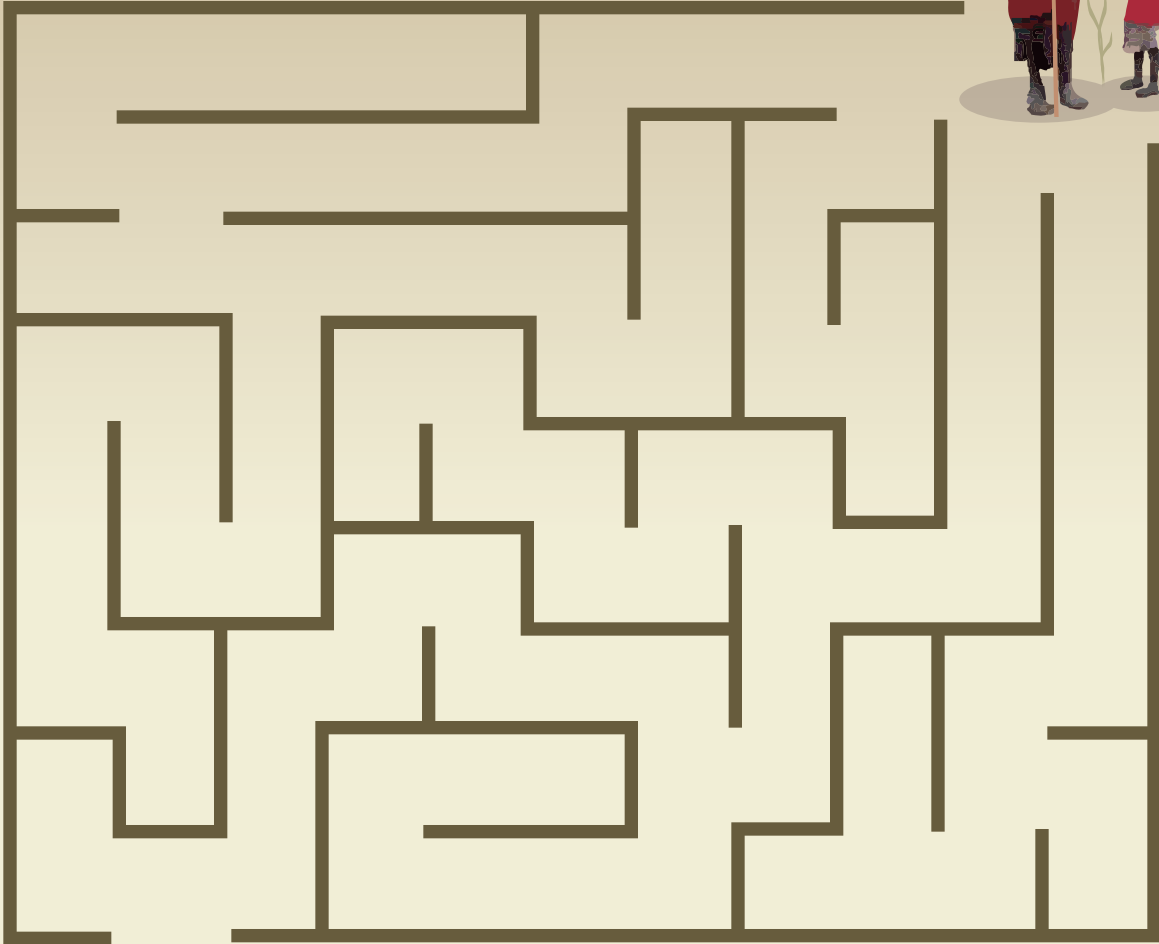
## Did You Know?

Baobab (BAOW-bab) trees store water in their thick trunks. They are sometimes called upside-down trees because they look as if their roots are at the top.

### Africa at a Glance

- **Population:** more than 900 million!
- **Most populated country:** Nigeria
- **Largest country:** Sudan\*
- **Languages spoken:** as many as 2,000!

\* The people of Southern Sudan recently voted to secede, or break-away from Northern Sudan. So, the country may soon be divided into two countries.



In this puzzle, a Maasai family has lost a calf.  
Help the family find its way back to the animal.

## The Ranchers of Africa

The Maasai of East Africa are a semi-nomadic group who herd cattle. They move with the seasons to find grass and water for their livestock. The Maasai take very good care of their animals. Cattle is their main source of food, milk and wealth. Cattle are such an important part of Maasai culture that the people have more than 30 words to describe the animal. Some of these words refer to the color or shape of the horns on cattle.

## A Prayer for the Missions at Easter

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions who are recently baptized. We ask that You help Your newest disciples spread the “Good News” of Your Son, Jesus, just as we have been called to do. Let them all feel the happiness that we do, Lord, when, strengthened by our faith in You, we share Your love with the children in the Missions. We pray that we continue to make a difference in the lives of children all over the world, and that more young people will come to know about You, Lord. Amen.

## Mark Your Calendars Missionaries!

Pentecost Sunday is a great missionary celebration in the Catholic Church. This year, it takes place on June 12. Pentecost Sunday is always celebrated 50 days after Easter. In fact, the word *pente* is a Greek word that means “50.” On that Sunday, we are reminded that, just like the disciples who lived with and knew Jesus, we too are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit so as to share the “Good News” of His love with the whole world!



## Pentecost Craft

Ask an adult or an older sibling to help you make this Pentecost candle holder (luminary) to use at home or at Church.

### Directions:

- Freeze water in a large, clean, empty soup or coffee can.
- Use a hammer and nail to punch holes in the can to create a shape such as a flame, a dove or a cross.
- Let the ice melt, empty the can and dry it thoroughly.
- Place about an inch of sand or cat litter inside the can to weight it and to help stabilize a votive candle.
- Light the candle and watch the design flicker on your walls as a reminder of the “fire of faith” first placed in your hearts at Baptism by the Holy Spirit!

Read the Pentecost story from Acts 2 with your family and say a prayer for missionaries. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen them and give them courage as they share the “Good News” of Jesus!