

Introduction Panama

The Wesleyan church in Puerto Rico sent Rev. Irving Figuaro to Panama in 2000. There he met with Irene de Pascal and a group of churches called Union Cristiana Church. This group helped plant churches in Tocumen, and Cierro Viento.

In 2006 Jose Mckella became the national leader and the church was re-organized as the Evangelical Wesleyan Church of Panama. The church now has work among the Kuna Indians as well as the Latino community. There are now 10 churches in Panama with plans to plant 5 more churches in the next three years.

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Only place where you can see sunrise and sunset on both sides of continent
 Has more variety of birds than any other country
 Pan-American highway begins in Panama and stretches to Point Barrow, Alaska



\$1 US = 1 Balboa
 US currency is used in Panama, both paper and coins

Exports
 Shrimp
 Coffee
 Bananas
 Sugar

Religion—Catholicism, Protestantism, Animism
 Language—Spanish, tribal languages

The original city of Panama was burned down by the pirate Henry Morgan in 1641

Animals—Harpy Eagle, Paca, Lesser Ant-eater, Coati, Armadillo, Sloth

Panama



Can you find ?
 Pollera—woman's traditional dress
 Panama Hat—actually made in Ecuador
 Accordion—most popular instrument

Favorite Sports—Baseball, Boxing, Soccer

Golden Dart Frog—most poisonous in the world, enough poison to kill 10 men

Old Year Dolls—At midnight they are burned to symbolize passing of the old year.

Cuisine
 Zancocho—soup
 Patacones—fried plantain
 Tres Leches—milk cake



Canal Facts
 Only place where you can cross the continental divide in a boat
 Tides are 6 meters—Pacific; 1 meter Caribbean
 51 miles across—8-10 hours to cross
 One of seven wonders of the modern world
 Raise and lower boats 84 feet

Children's Story

Mariquel

Since I was little I knew God. In my house we enjoyed studying the Bible together. I remember when I was about 5 or 6 years old, we always sang songs. There is one song that is no longer sung but I remember it in my head. It says: "Men of Galilee you who are looking at this Jesus that went up to the sky. This same person will return on a cloud and will take up the redeemed, and will take up the redeemed." That is a beautiful song. We loved to sing it. Now I understand that we really have a promise that will be fulfilled, that every Christian hopes that one day Jesus will return for his people. It is for this that we have to prepare ourselves to receive him.

We prepare ourselves by having a clean heart, obeying his word, taking time to talk with Jesus, and seeking Him every day in every moment.

During the time that I was growing up I had friends that were not Christians. They had so much influence over me that I stopped following God and I made so many mistakes. One time when I was struggling emotionally I no longer wanted to live but wanted to die. That is when I decided to truly follow Jesus and I have never left that decision. The best time of my life has been when I am walking with Jesus. He is the best gift I have ever had.

God is there to help me and free me from all of my worries; He gives me a new and better life. His grace has been mine in great abundance. I know that his word has been made real in my life. To walk with God is the best thing each girl and boy should do.

The Bible says that when you train a child how to walk with God he will not depart from it. This is what my parents sought to do, by studying the Bible with us. Because of this, today I am a servant of the king of kings.

(Mariquel is now a pastor's wife and works with women and children teaching them to follow Jesus.)

Memory Activity

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

A  command  give 
  another. As  have
loved  so  must love  another.

By this all  will know that 
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another.

Make copies for the children or make a bigger one that all can see. Have them guess at what each image means. Or have a child read up to the first image. Then the next child reads until the second image and so on until they have read through the entire scripture.

Bible Lesson

God My Helper

We should read God's word regularly to learn and grow as a Christian. Here are some verses for the children to study. Have them find the verses, read them and talk about them. Remind the children that God will hear their prayers and talk to them through His Word when they pray, "God, Help Me!."

When you have **H**urt feelings ... read Colossians 3:12-17

When you need **E**ncouragement ... read 2Thessalonians 2:16-17

When you don't feel **L**oved ... read Romans 8:38-39

When you need **P**ace ... read John 14:27

When you want assurance that God is **M**y salvation ... 1 John 1:9

When you need reminders of God's presence in your life **E**veryday ... read Psalms 139:1-6

As you learn to trust God, you need to show others how to trust in God. The bible tells us that it is through our love and concern for others that they will know we are Christians. And through us, they will know God's love.

Drop the Marble -

Children in Central and South America love games of skill. One game, for two players, is played with marbles-or stones-and pits one individual's skills against another's. The winner of this game ends up with all the marbles.

Each player begins with five marbles. The two contestants first toss a marble at a line they draw on the ground. The player whose marble falls closest to the line begins.

The two players face each other. The winner of the toss stands at attention, heels together and feet spread wide. The second player crouches about five feet away. He tosses a marble toward the spread feet of the other. If he fails to land a marble between the feet and heels in three chances, he loses one marble.

However, if he succeeds in placing a marble between the heels and the feet of the first player, the first player drops one of his marbles. The first player may look down, but he must stand straight. He drops the marble from the height of his waist. If he hits his opponent's marble, he wins the marble. If he misses, he loses the opponent's marble, and forfeits his own marble as well.

In the second round, the players change places-one tossing a marble and the other spreading his feet, but with his heels together. The contest is over when one player owns all the marbles.

An interesting variation is a team game. First two leaders are chosen. They in turn pick their teams. The team that owns the most marbles after half an hour wins the game.



Game Time

Time for Prayer

- Pray for the church planting work in the villages around Piria. They are in a remote part of Panama. Pastor Eudelio and his church are working to plant churches there.
- Pray for the film ministry and the goal of using it to plant churches in new places.
- Pray that God will call men and women into ministry to be pastors for the new churches.
- Pray for the Bible Institute that it will be able to provide the training needed for the pastors and those being called to serve.
- Pray as the church seeks to plant more churches in the cities of Panama to act as outreach centers for each region.

Activity



Crossing the Canal—Board Game,

1. Make copies of the board game found on page 125 in the resource section. (One for each child)
2. Have each child color the spaces in any order using the colors blue, red, and green.
3. Make the playing pieces out of whatever you have available (buttons, stones, coins, etc.)
4. Read the questions provided below. When each question is answered correctly all of the children can move to the square with the color associated with the question. Since each child has colored their own board, their moves will be unique to their board.
5. First child to reach finish wins.

Questions

1. What is the name of the lady in the story? Blue (Mariquel)
2. How many churches are there in Panama now? Red (10)
3. What is zancocho? Green (soup)
4. What pirate burned down the original city? Blue (Morgan)
5. Who is the current leader of the church? Red (Jose Mckella)
6. What is the name of the game? Green (Crossing the Canal)
7. What tribe is part of the work in Panama? Blue (Kuna)
8. What is a pollera? Red (Dress)
9. What was the phrase you learned in the Bible lesson? Green (Help Me)
10. The memory verse is found in what book of the bible? Blue (John)
11. Who is wanting to plant churches in Piria? Red (Eudelio)
12. Who came from Puerto Rico to help start the work in Panama? Green (Irving Figuero)

Lock One - M