



Winnie's Newsletter

A take-home paper for kids!

AFGHANISTAN

Time to Eat!

Absal's family eats together in the evening. The food served in a large dish, and everyone digs in, using the right hand and a piece of *nan*, a flat bread. Absal loves the *pilau* (rice with meat and veggies) and meat kebabs. The family usually does not eat lunch, but they snack on fresh fruits, nuts, and sugarcane. When Absal is full, he lets out a big burp. This makes his mother happy, because it means he enjoyed the meal!



Absal

Absal rolls off his mat and pulls his clothes on quickly—baggy pants, a long shirt, and a sash around his waist. It's a cold morning in his village near Kabul. Absal joins his five brothers and sisters around a mat on the floor for breakfast. The hot *chai* (tea) is so good on a day like this! He smiles at his two big sisters, who are just starting school even though they are 10 and 12 years old. A few years ago, girls were not allowed to

go to school at all. Today the new government lets girls get an education, and women can even get jobs and go to college.



A Crowded Home

Absal's large family—his father, mother, six children, and two grandparents—live together in a mud-brick house with several rooms. A high wall around the yard keeps intruders out and keeps the animals in. Many days Absal has to miss school to help his father plow and plant the fields. His brothers help tend the sheep and goats, and the girls help with cooking and housework. During harvest time, everyone works in the fields.



Holiday

In January, Muslims in Afghanistan celebrate the Feast of the Sacrifice, which they call Eid Al Adha. This is when they remember Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God. Muslims believe it was Ishmael, not Isaac, whom Abraham placed on the altar. On this day, the people sacrifice a lamb and give the meat to the poor.



Afghans Need Jesus

Can you imagine not being allowed to watch a cartoon, or listen to your favorite music—or sing “Jesus Loves Me”? Kids in Afghanistan couldn’t do any of these things until a few years ago.

For about 1200 years, the people of Afghanistan have bowed to Allah, the god of Islam. The people who follow Islam are called Muslims. They do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. In 1994, a group called the Taliban took over the government. The Taliban wanted everyone to follow Islam their way. They burned books and closed the TV stations and movie theaters. They made all girls quit school and did not let women have jobs. They said that anyone who told others about Jesus or decided to be a Christian would be killed.



After the 9/11 attack on the U.S., the Taliban government was overthrown. Now, new laws allow people to worship as they wish, and girls can go to school.



But this war in Afghanistan killed and hurt many people. The Taliban soldiers burned houses and fields as they fought. Wives lost their husbands and were forced to beg.

Thousands of families went to refugee camps, where they had almost nothing to live on.

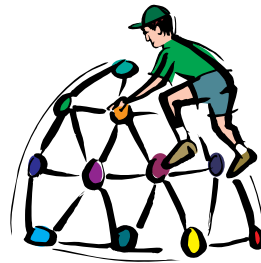
That’s where the love of God comes in! The U.S. Assemblies of God—and BGMC too!—has helped by giving food, digging wells, setting up medical clinics, and rebuilding houses and schools.

Assemblies of God churches in Iran and Pakistan also helped refugees who came to their countries. Workers from the Assemblies of God began to help in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan still does not have church buildings, but there are followers of Jesus who meet together. To help them, some Afghan Christians began a radio program. They sing, pray, and preach, and listeners can “go to church” with them. Thank you, BGMC, for providing the funds for the radio programs.



Assemblies of God workers have helped lots of kids. Two women in Kabul built places for homeless kids called “Shelters for Kids.” Gifts from our churches here in the U.S. have also provided playground equipment and soccer balls for kids who have never had a safe place to play.



Let’s pray that these kids will grow up learning about a God of love—Jesus!

Because of BGMC, many books have been translated into Arabic and other local languages so kids and adults have Christian books to read, including the Bible. BGMC has also provided videos, training materials, and DVDs all in the local languages. Thank you, kids, for giving to BGMC!

LET’S PRAY...

- for the children of Afghanistan, especially for those who have lost their families and homes due to war.
- for Assemblies of God workers from the U.S. and other countries, that God will help them to show His love to these people.
- for Afghan Christians, that they can reach their families and neighbors for Jesus!

