



*"Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these," Luke 18:16b*

### **EASTER TRADITIONS AND STORIES**

**HUNGARY:** Easter is celebrated for two days in Hungary: Easter Sunday and Monday. On Monday, men and boys visit their female friends and relatives. They will read a poem and sometimes splash the girls with cologne or water! The girls and women reward them with a hand-painted egg, baked goods, or some other treat. Please pray that Jesus will be more important to the people of Hungary than the fun traditions.

**CZECH REPUBLIC:** Many people in the Czech Republic think Easter is just a time to celebrate spring. Boys chase girls with whipping sticks—don't try this at home! They hope the girl will give them a piece of candy. Czechs enjoy spring because their winters are very long and cold. Pray they will think about Jesus' resurrection instead of the playful customs.

**MEXICO:** They have a parade on Palm Sunday and special services all week—all the way to Easter. Most Mexicans are very "spiritual" but don't know Jesus personally. Pray for Christians of Tijuana, Mexico that they will have the courage to tell their friends the true meaning of Easter.

**COSTA RICA:** For most Costa Ricans, the focus of Easter is Christ on the cross. They think about Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross but they don't celebrate His resurrection! There is a city in Costa Rica called Santa Cruz—that means Holy Cross. Please ask God to help the people understand that Jesus died and He rose from the dead for them.

### **Tell the Best Story, APRIL 2, 2010**

All of us enjoy shopping for a new outfit for Easter, going on egg hunts and getting an Easter basket filled with goodies. That's all a lot of fun; but there is something that is even more special...

In West Africa, they don't have the same kinds of Easter traditions that we have. The Futa Toro Fulani (FU-tah TOH-roh fu-LAH-nee) people don't really have any Easter traditions, and the Christians are trying to decide how to celebrate. Most of them have not been Christians

for very long, and they don't have large churches where Easter musicals are sung or Resurrection Celebration parties are held.

They want to start special traditions that honor God. I know one special thing they can do—they can tell their friends about Jesus! This Easter will you pray for Fulani Christians to tell their friends and families the best story they know—the story about how Jesus died to be our Savior? Will you pray about telling your friends too?

#### **4-year-old G, APRIL 10, 2009**

In Japan, a little boy we call G turns 4 years old this month. His mom is a Christian, but his dad is not. Soon, G will start going to a Christian pre-kindergarten five days a week. His mom hopes G will learn more about Jesus at school and become a Christian. She hopes his dad will hear G and the other children talk about Jesus too.

G just made a new friend, M, the 4-year-old son of missionaries Kevin and Donna Qualls. G and M like to play together. Sometimes, G's parents go with him when they play. The Qualls tell them the stories of Jesus. Pray for G's whole family to hear about Jesus THIS week! Pray that his dad will want Jesus to be his Savior.

I was 10 years old when I accepted Jesus as my Savior—on Easter Sunday! He has been my best friend for all these years and I want all my friends to know Him too. You might have some friends who don't know about Jesus. Why not tell them THIS week that Jesus loves them? I'm praying with you for your friends and for G in Japan.

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