

Issue 10

December 2025

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLETalks

VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ALONG THE WAY • NIGERIA WORD SCRAMBLE • A WAY OUT

Along *the Way*

Note to Parents and Educators: As the following true story contains themes of violence, we ask that you use your discretion to determine if the subject matter is suitable for younger audiences.

It was a normal Friday evening in 2002 when eight-year-old Nankpak's village in Plateau State, Nigeria, was suddenly invaded by militant Fulani herdsmen. The Fulani, a large ethnic group in West Africa, are known for raising cattle and moving from place to place. Nankpak's father, a local pastor, was away when the attack began. Upon hearing the news, the church leader raced home, desperate to warn his family.

"[My father] told us to run away," Nankpak remembers. "Our neighbours' houses [were] on fire. We left [our] house and decided to run for our lives." With danger closing in and no time to gather their belongings, Nankpak, his mother and younger siblings quickly fled into the thick bush.

The family remained hidden until gunfire erupted nearby. As they scrambled to a new hiding place, both Nankpak and his mother were struck by bullets. Wounded and frightened, the Christians continued to hide in the bush for several days,

clinging to hope that the attackers would leave. During this time, Nankpak learned that his father had escaped the initial attack – but was tragically captured and killed after returning to the village to search for his family. Later that same day, one of the militants discovered the family's hiding spot. Nankpak miraculously survived, but his mother, younger brother Pirmak, and younger sister Jane were all killed.

After recovering from his injuries, Nankpak was taken in by his uncle's family. Four years later, a Christian orphanage heard about the young boy's story and welcomed him into the centre. There, he was able to attend school and begin healing from the traumatic loss of his family members. "There were so many people coming around to [comfort] us [and encourage] us," Nankpak recalls. "They would tell us that everything would be alright [and that] God had not forgotten about [us]."

Nankpak spent seven years at the orphanage and eventually graduated from university with a degree in microbiology. Although he once dreamed of becoming a medical doctor, the Lord had another plan.

Today, Nankpak works with Stephanos Foundation, a Christian organization that supports Nigerian believers who have been persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

"My faith was never shaken; I know that God is with me in all situations," reflects Nankpak, now 30 years old. "It says in Matthew 6:12, 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' This is the Scripture that has helped me to forgive those who have killed my parents and my younger siblings."

"They would tell us that...
God had not forgotten
about [us]."

Nankpak affirms that God has carried him through every step of his journey, and now, this faithful follower of Jesus is helping persecuted Christians rebuild their lives, just as others once helped him. His life is a powerful reminder that, even in suffering, God is writing a greater story – one of healing, purpose and hope!

To watch VOMC's video interview with Nankpak, visit www.vomcanada.com/video/Nankpak or scan the QR code.



Reading Between the Lines

Story Sequence

Number the events below from 1 to 5, in the order they happened in the story.

- ___ Nankpak lives with his uncle's family.
- ___ Militant Fulani herdsmen attack Nankpak's village.
- ___ Nankpak studies microbiology.
- ___ Nankpak hides in the bush and survives.
- ___ Nankpak lives at an orphanage.

True or False

Decide if each statement about Nankpak's story below is true or false. Circle the answer.

- a) God's calling for Nankpak was to be a medical doctor. **True** or **False**?
- b) Nankpak's father was not home when the herdsmen attacked. **True** or **False**?
- c) Nankpak had two younger siblings. **True** or **False**?
- d) Nankpak's family lived in Borno state, Nigeria. **True** or **False**?

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Nigeria Word Scramble

Unscramble each Nigeria-related word using the provided clues to discover fascinating facts about Nigerian culture, geography and more! If you get stuck, feel free to research the clues online. An answer key and printable resources are available at vomcanada.com/TableTalksNigeria25.

1. FJLOLO → _____

Hint: This tomato-coloured, one-pot rice dish is very popular throughout Western Africa. It is the national dish of Nigeria and is usually served with fried plantains and a savoury bean pudding called "moi moi."

2. TLEDA → _____

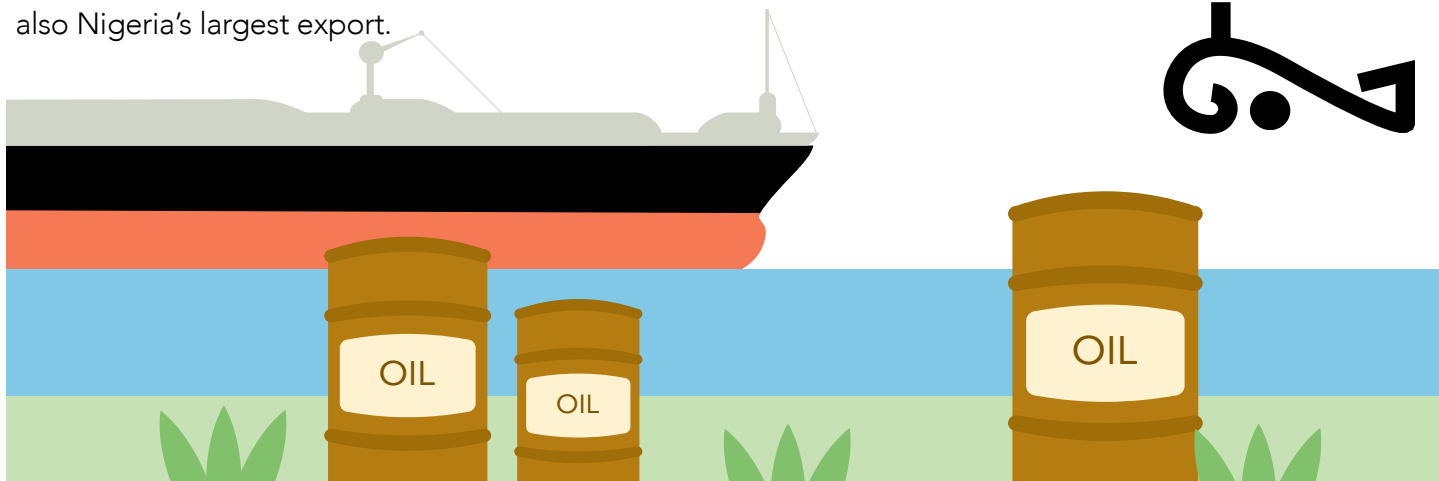
Hint: This type of wetland is created by a river as it empties into another body of water. Nigeria contains the largest one in all of Africa!

3. JAUAB → _____

Hint: As the federal capital of Nigeria, this bustling city is located in the centre of the country. It replaced Lagos as the capital in 1991.

4. OELUTPREM → _____

Hint: This naturally occurring oil, found deep underground, is used to make many everyday products. It's also Nigeria's largest export.



5. UASHA → _____

Hint: Around 30 percent of Nigerians belong to this ethnic group, which is the largest in the country! Their language is widely spoken across northern Nigeria.

6. GNRIE → _____

Hint: Measuring over 4,100 kilometres, this river is the longest in Nigeria and the source of the country's name.

7. AINAR → _____

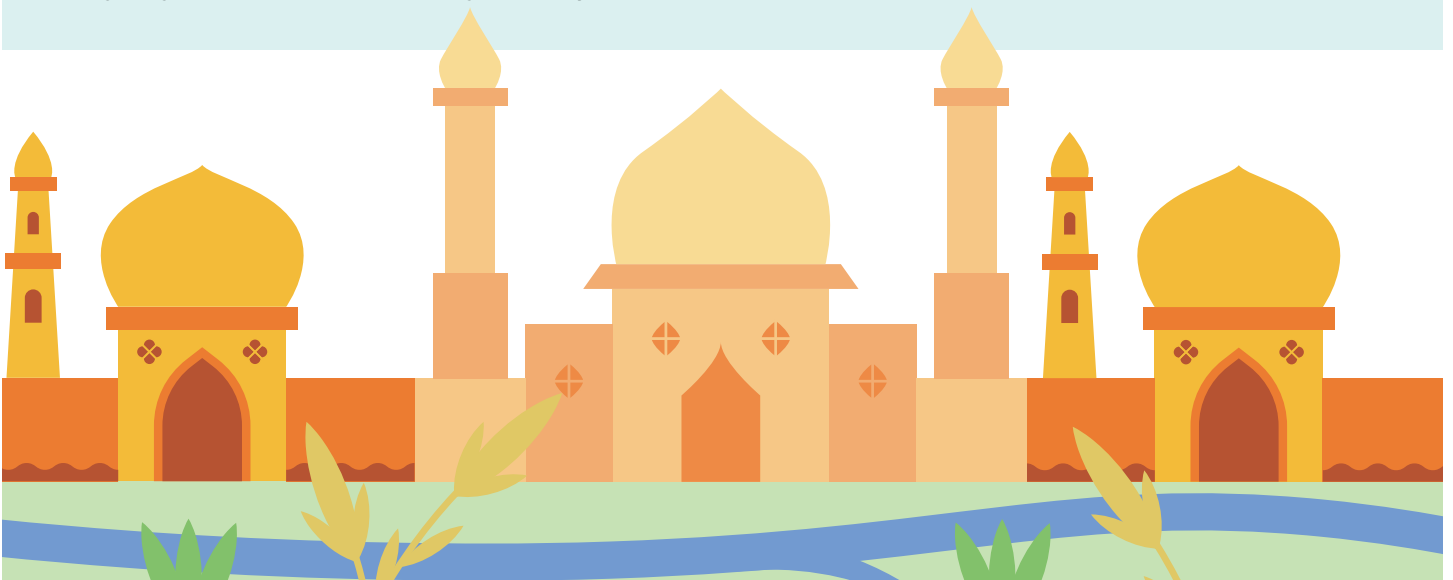
Hint: This term refers to Nigeria's currency. Nigeria has the fourth-largest economy in Africa!

8. OTRP → _____

Hint: This critical hub is a place where ships load and unload goods. The largest one in Nigeria is located in Lagos.

9. NFMAGRI → _____

Hint: This word describes the practice of growing and harvesting crops or raising livestock for sale. Most working Nigerians make their living this way.



Sources

Where we got our information throughout *Table Talks*.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/21/afw-deep-structural-reforms-guided-by-evidence-are-urgently-needed-to-lift-millions-of-nigerians-out-of-poverty>

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<https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/nigeria/>

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<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/nigeria-facts.html>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1120999/gdp-of-african-countries-by-country/>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Niger-River>

<https://vomcanada.com/ng-videos/video/ng-nanpak-2024.htm>

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2. TLEDA → DELTA

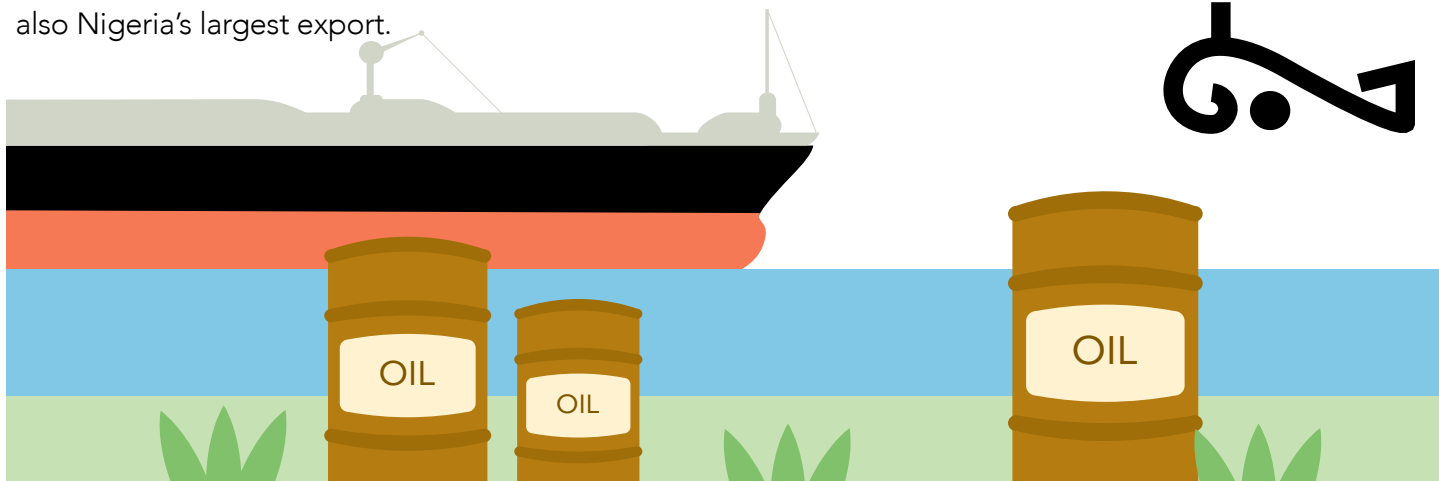
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Hint: This naturally occurring oil, found deep underground, is used to make many everyday products. It's also Nigeria's largest export.



5. UASHA → **HAUSA**

Hint: Around 30 percent of Nigerians belong to this ethnic group, which is the largest in the country! Their language is widely spoken across northern Nigeria.

6. GNRIE → **NIGER**

Hint: Measuring over 4,100 kilometres, this river is the longest in Nigeria and the source of the country's name.

7. AINAR → **NAIRA**

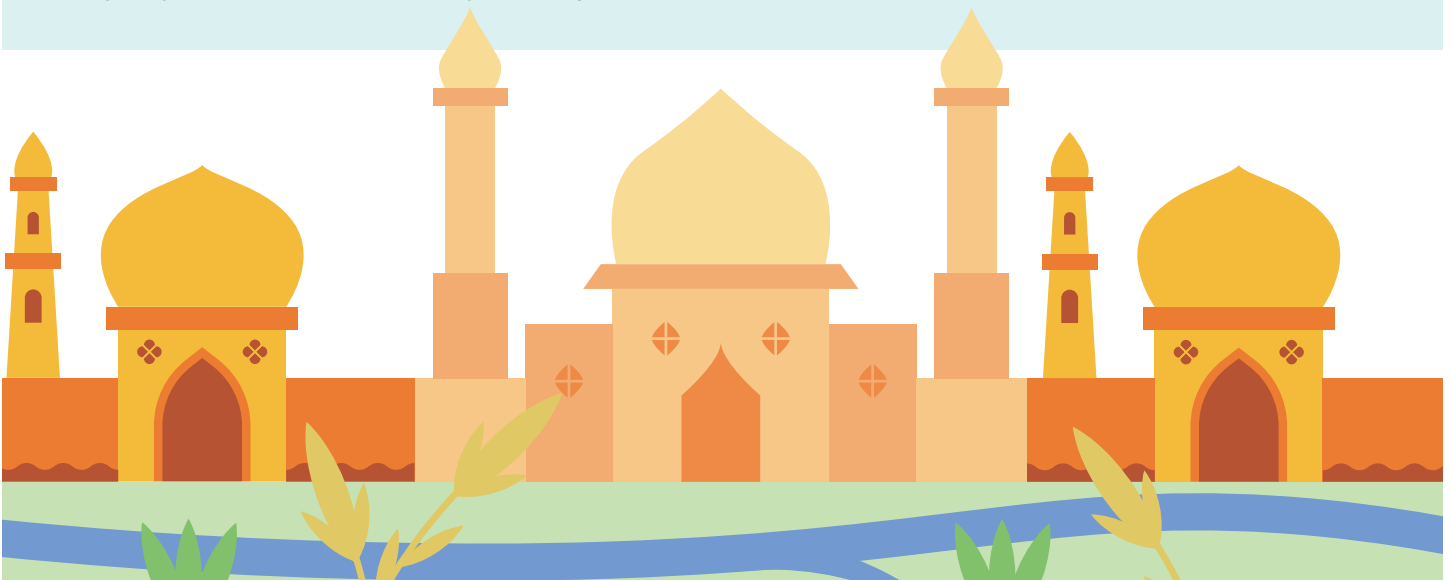
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8. OTRP → **PORT**

Hint: This critical hub is a place where ships load and unload goods. The largest one in Nigeria is located in Lagos.

9. NFMAGRI → **FARMING**

Hint: This word describes the practice of growing and harvesting crops or raising livestock for sale. Most working Nigerians make their living this way.



One Way

Religious Comparison: Compare & Contrast What the Bible Says

What Does the Bible Really Say About Prosperity?

Some churches teach what's called "the prosperity Gospel," also known as the "Word of Faith Movement." According to this teaching, if you believe in Jesus, you will never be poor or suffer. It claims that God wants all His children to be rich, healthy and happy. This idea has become common in many churches in Nigeria. *But is it really what the Bible teaches?*

Let's take a closer look:

Does God Promise Wealth?

Teachers of the prosperity Gospel urge Christians to pray and give money with the expectation of becoming wealthy. But Jesus warned against greed, saying: *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions"* (Luke 12:15 NIVUK). Instead, Jesus encouraged His followers to store up *"treasures in heaven"* rather than focus on things that fade away (Matthew 6:19-20).

What Kind of Blessings Did Jesus Bring?

Some claim that Jesus came to give people money and material wealth. But the Bible demonstrates that God gives believers *spiritual blessings* through Jesus. These blessings are far greater than anything money can buy.

The most important gift is the forgiveness of sins, which is available to anyone who believes (Ephesians 1:3,7; Romans 3:22). Jesus also gives His followers love, joy and peace, and He promises to be with them always (John 15:10-11; Matthew 28:20). Even when life is hard, our spirits can be renewed every day (2 Corinthians 4:16).



What About Suffering?

According to the prosperity Gospel, believers should never suffer. However, Jesus stated that those who are persecuted for following Him are *"blessed"* and will receive a great reward in heaven (Matthew 5:10-12). Life can be difficult, and Christians may face many challenges, but Jesus gives us the inner strength and peace to overcome (Philippians 4:12-13; John 16:33).

Looking Ahead to Heaven

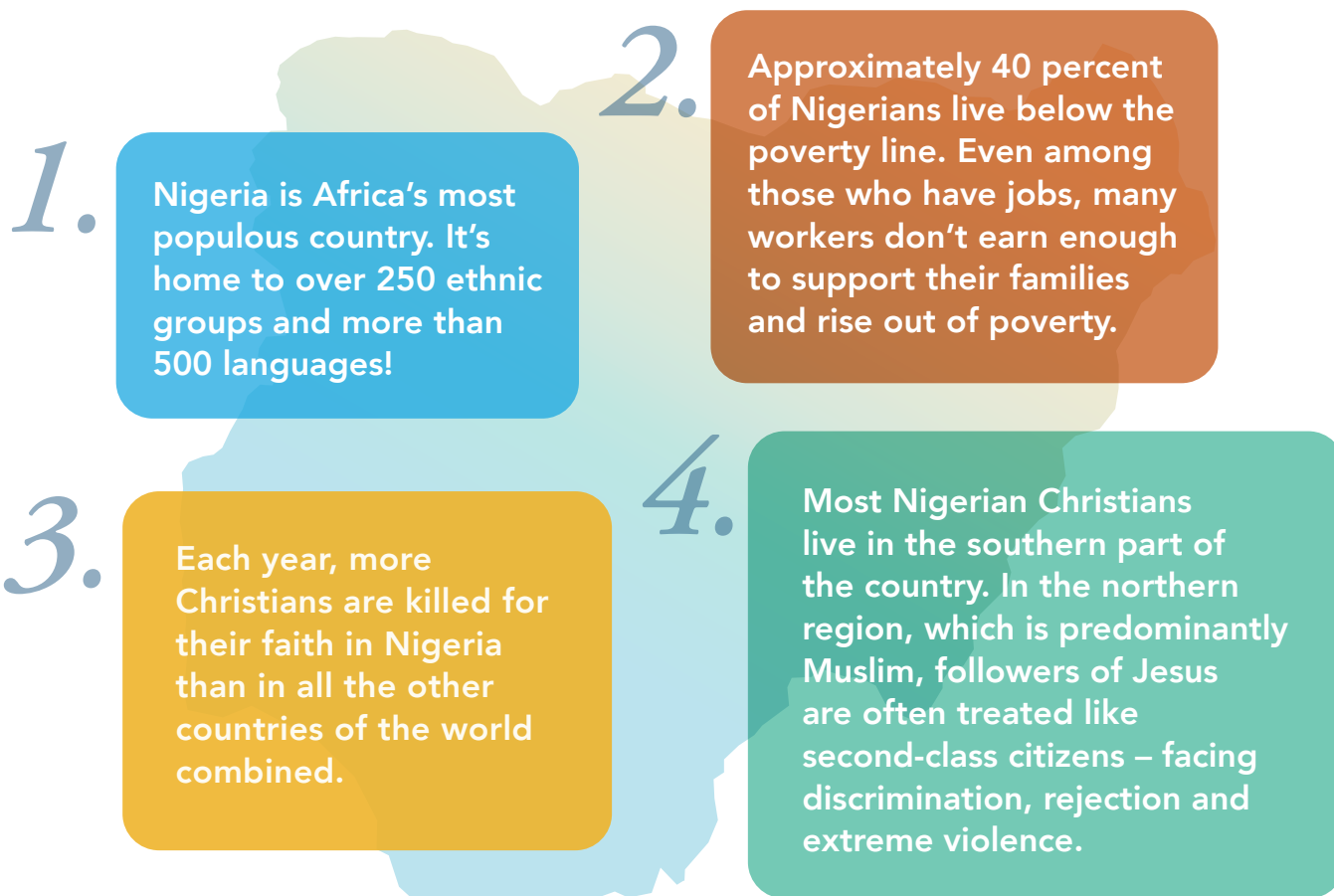
Prosperity teaching focusses on getting blessings now. But Jesus points us to the future. He is preparing a place – a new heaven and earth – for His followers (John 14:2-3). The joy we will experience in eternity far outweighs any pain we may face today (Romans 8:18).

The Truth About the Christian Life

The Bible teaches that, although life includes trials, God provides Christians with everything they need to live for Him – including a peace that *"surpasses all understanding"* (Philippians 4:7 ESV). Jesus encouraged His disciples with these words: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33 ESV). A Christian's true hope, lasting wealth and eternal home are found in Christ alone, not in the temporary things the world calls success.

Weigh In

Weighing the facts
about Nigeria



Corresponding Question Points:



(1) How do you think so many different people groups came to exist in one geographical area? Have you ever experienced communicating across language barriers? What challenges might a missionary face in a country with such a diverse population?

(2) How would you respond if you knew you could never earn enough money to take care of your family? What are some long-term ways that governments can help reduce poverty? How do you think Christians should treat individuals living in difficult economic circumstances?

(3) Courage in the face of danger is a powerful testimony to God's faithful presence and strength among His people. What questions might non-believing Nigerians have when they see Christians staying strong during hard times? Consider Philippians 1:14. Have you ever felt inspired by someone else's courage?

(4) Do you think Christians in northern Nigeria should flee to safer regions? Reflect on the Apostle Paul's journeys in the book of Acts. What are some reasons God might call believers to stay in – or leave – dangerous places?

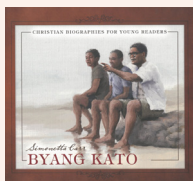
A Way Out

For the month of December, you can help
“pack a backpack” with prayers!

VOMC partners with Christian Faith Ministries in Nigeria to provide persecuted children like Nankpak with a safe place to heal, learn and grow in their faith. You can join in by filling a backpack with prayer sticks – each one showing a specific way to pray for these Nigerian children and the adults caring for them. Use one stick per prayer time, or grab them all and fill the backpack as you pray for each area. This December, let's “not grow weary of doing good,” but “bear one another's burdens” through prayer (Galatians 6:2,9 ESV)! For instructions and a printable template, visit: vomcanada.com/TableTalksNigeria25



RECOMMENDED READS

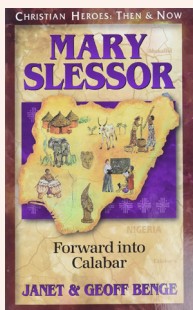


Byang Kato

by Simonetta Carr

\$20

Byang Kato had always believed his future lay in becoming a juju priest – until, one day, everything changed.



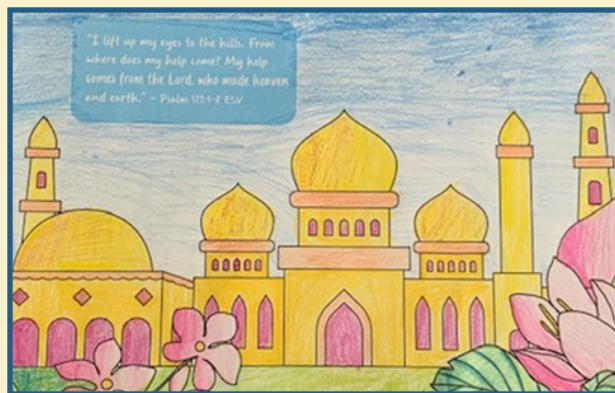
Mary Slessor: Forward into Calabar*

by Janet & Geoff Benge

**Not available at VOMC's online store, but available elsewhere.*

With courageous faith and deep compassion, Mary became “Ma” to many – rescuing lives, challenging injustice, and revealing the hope and freedom found in Christ.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Hailey (age 10) from Chilliwack, BC, is the winner of *Colouring Connection* from the September issue of *Table Talks*. Congratulations and wonderful job! We received many fantastic submissions. Thanks to everyone who shared their creativity with us!

For more resources, including those that are free, visit our online store!

vomcanada.com/store



Way Out: The Prayer Pack

Materials

- a) Coloured cardstock or construction paper
- b) Scissors
- c) Glue
- d) Prayer Pack craft template

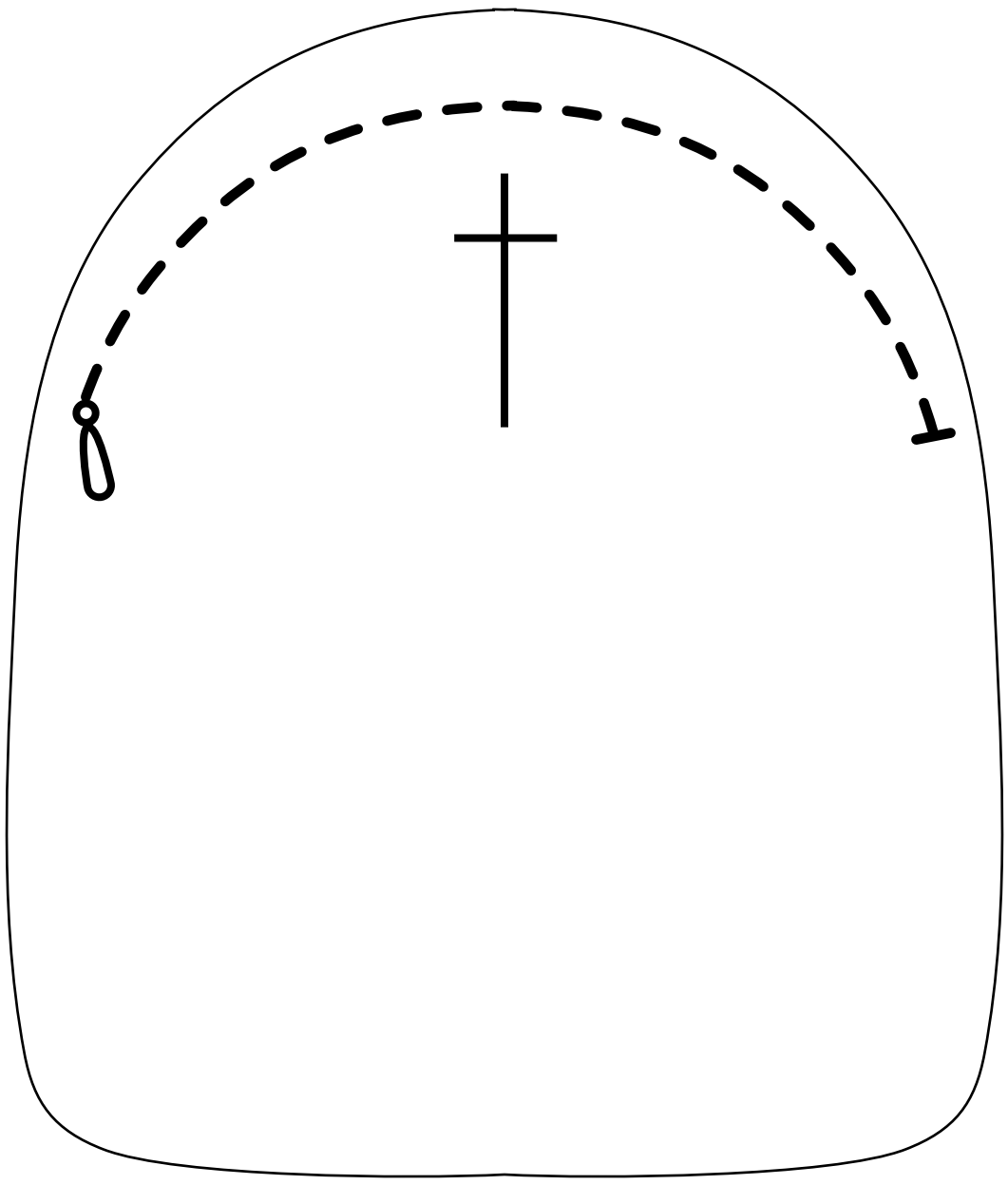
Instructions

- 1) Print out the template.
- 2) Cut out all the pieces and colour the backpack (or print on coloured paper).
- 3) Take the front pouch band and glue it to the top of the pouch.
- 4) Position the completed pouch onto the main backpack cutout and glue it in place.
- 5) Attach the handle by glueing both ends to the top and back of the backpack to form a loop.
- 6) Glue the shoulder straps to the top corners of the backpack, forming large loops.
- 7) Cut out the prayer sticks and glue them to some popsicle sticks, and then place them in the pouch.
- 8) Fill the pouch with prayers!



Cutouts for this activity can be found on the next three pages below!



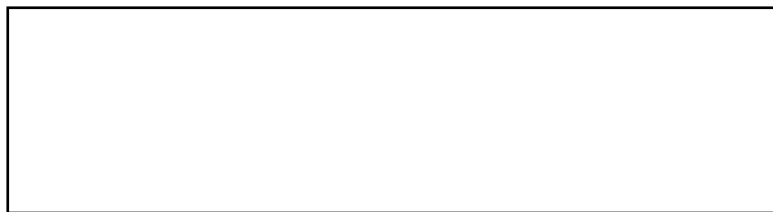


Prayer Pack ↑

shoulder straps →



backpack handle



pouch band



front pouch ↑



Education



Physical Needs



Trauma Care / Counselling



New Friends & Mentors



Bible Teaching

prayer sticks ↑