

“HEY KIDS, REMEMBER...”



In South America where the Amazon river flows there are very many tribal people who have not once heard about Jesus. Will you pray for someone to go and tell them about Him? Will you pray about going yourself some day?

To get GC Kids in your postal mailbox



email

GCKids@worldteam.org subject line: GC Kids subscription”

To purchase multiple copies Of GC Kids (minimum 50) order from Copy 'n Print, Box 4566, Three Hills AB T0M 2A0, CANADA

Ph: 403-443-7041 Fax: 403-443-2120 Email: info@copynprint.com

Price printed, folded and mailed to USA : 50 copies about US\$65; 100 copies about US\$130. Please indicate number and title of the issues you want (see front page). Contact Copy 'n Print for questions about international shipping.



Download and print multiple copies at us.worldteam.org/gc_kids

GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to nurture a love for missions that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. To financially contribute to this project or for other matters, Contact the editor at: elinor.young@worldteam.org.

GC Kids is a service of World Team: “God Centered. People Focused.”

1431 Stuckert Rd, Warrington, PA 18976, USA
Ph. 1-800-967-7109 Fax 215-491-4910
wt-usa@worldteam.org



Issue 37: AMAZONIA

AMAZONIA

What part of the earth is at least as big as the deserts of Australia or the Gobi desert of Mongolia, but is not at all like a desert? It's the rain forest area of northern South America. The huge Amazon river and thousands of smaller rivers and streams wind like snakes through the thick jungle of several countries in the region.

Many, many tribes of people live in Amazonia. In just one country, about 77 of the tribes have never had contact with anyone outside the jungle. And outsiders can't go into the area.



About 121 of the tribes who live in Amazonia have never heard the name of Jesus. That needs to change! But how? How can we tell them about Jesus if we can't get to them? Read this story and find out.



How Long Must They Wait?

The dark jungle night was still except for the gurgle of the river and the noises of animals that are awake at night. Like them, eleven year old Jaku wasn't sleeping. He lay in his hammock near his family's fire in front of the common village round house.

“What will it be like to leave here?” he thought, “Father says we must go. People from outside the jungle made it so our gardens don't grow enough food. We can't



Photos from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

find enough animals when we hunt, either. Our uncles who are in the big city say we can live better there. We'll have food and clothes and things I haven't ever seen. But I'm scared. Will we really be OK?"

In his mind Jaku played back the scenes of the day.

The village witchdoctor had done a special ceremony. He chanted and danced and sacrificed a small animal to make sure that Jaku's family would be safe from evil spirits on their journey to the city.

Jaku and his family didn't know about Jesus, who loves them and is stronger than all evil spirits. Once, though, a cousin in another village told Jaku about someone who said he saw a man named Jesus in a vision. This Jesus man was loving, not scary like the evil spirits. Jaku wondered whether that was true. He did not know that their journey would one day lead them to hear the good news about Jesus.

In the early morning Jaku and his family got in a dugout canoe to go down their river for a day until they came to the big Amazon River, and then on to the city. Jaku had never been to a city, but he



heard it was not like the jungle.

After a few days on the rivers, Jaku saw the city for himself. There were lots more buildings and people than at his jungle home. Most of the other indigenous people didn't speak the same language his tribe did.

However, he had learned a little bit of the national language in his village. So had the other indigenous children. They could talk to each other that way.

The shelters where families lived in this favela (slum) part of the city were not as good as his jungle home had been. It was smelly, dirty and full of noise. Every night people gathered at a spot to chant and wail in fear. Leaders of Macumba, a religion that worships evil spirits, beat their drums at night and spoke curses over the village. "I just want to go back to my own home in the jungle," Jaku thought.

There were a few trees, too. Jaku noticed, "Every Sunday a few people meet under that tree. A man comes and talks about someone called Jesus. Is this the Jesus my cousin told me about? The first time the man spoke there, Macumba leaders stood behind the man, beating

INDIGENOUS:
people who originated or are natives of a land, region, or environment.

☆ **Think About It** ☆

Choose the best answer:

When Jesus said "my church" he meant:



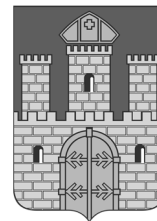
A special kind of building



All people all over the world

who believe and follow Jesus (See 1 Peter 2:5 New Living Translation "And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.")

Jesus said he would build his church with people from the whole world, and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." In other words, Satan's gates won't stop the Gospel. Gates are made to keep things either out or in. Jesus said Satan would not be able to shut his gates to stop people from becoming followers of Jesus. The devil will try, but he can't stop Jesus from building His church.



Satan can't do this.



He can't shut people out from becoming living stones in Jesus' living Church!

More people in Amazonia need to hear about Jesus. Will you go?



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

Matthew
16:18



and the gates of hell
will not prevail
against it.

their drums loudly, trying to drown out his voice. But that didn't stop him from talking or the people from listening. It must be a powerful story."

In time, as Jaku listened to the man (a missionary) each week, he knew it was all true. Jesus loved him and paid for his sin. Jaku became a follower of Jesus. The Gospel could not be stopped even by loud drums. "Why didn't someone come to us sooner to tell us about Jesus?" Jaku wondered. "Why did they wait so long?"

+++++

A church is being built by that tree, and now Jaku has a new reason to go back to his jungle village someday. Not because he is homesick, but because he wants to tell the people of his tribe about Jesus. Outsiders like the

missionary can't go into the indigenous jungle areas, but Jaku can go and tell his people about Jesus. He says, "One day after I am grown up and have learned a lot more about Jesus, I will go back and tell my people about him." ■

(Even though this is not about a real boy named Jaku, everything in this story is true. Parts were written by someone who has been there and is going back to stay and tell the indigenous people about Jesus.)

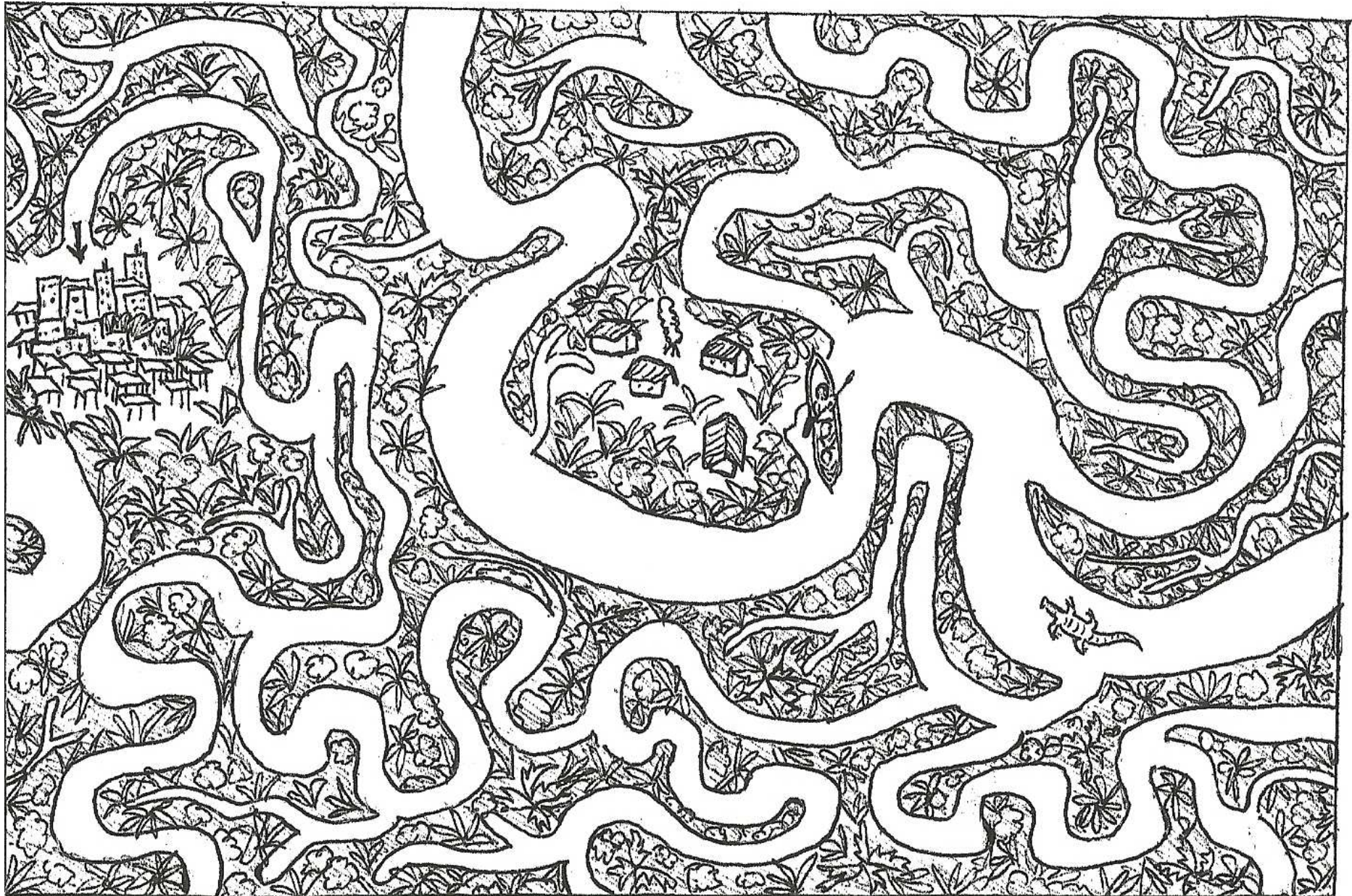


Site of the new church

"Why did you wait so long to tell us?"



Can you spot Jaku and his family in their dugout canoe starting their trip down the rivers through the jungle, on their way to the big city? Trace the way they need to go.



Maze custom drawn for this issue of GC Kids by Lisa Voth. Thank you, Lisa!