

True story! 28 children were living in an orphanage only 200 yds from the beach in Navalady, Sri Lanka, when someone yelled: "THE SEA IS COMING!". The date was December 25th

2004 and the orphanage was on a narrow piece of land between the ocean and a beautiful lagoon - and right in the path of the terrible tsunami! But Sanders and his wife, who look after the children, are Christians, and so his first words were: "Be calm. God is with us. Nothing will ever harm us without His permission."

They quickly got all the children together and climbed into the small orphanage boat - normally the outboard motor was taken out of the boat at night and locked up for safety, but by "accident" it had been left in the boat the day before! Usually the starter cord had to be yanked hard 4 or 5 times before it would start, but this day the engine started immediately! As the overcrowded little boat took off into the lagoon, a 30-ft wall of water engulfed the orphanage behind them!

They headed out across the water but suddenly Sanders saw the tumultuous waves and was afraid the little boat would be overturned. He suddenly remembered the verse Isaiah 59:19: "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against it." He lifted up his hand to the flood and shouted "I command you in the name of Jesus - stop!" They watched, as the water seemed to stop for a moment, then they were continuing across the lagoon. It was a frightening journey, but the little boat with its precious cargo of children finally landed safely on the shore. The orphanage was destroyed and much of it was covered with up to 3-ft of sand, but the Lord had kept them safe, and now their story is being told around the world!

What an encouraging story of God's love and ability to protect us! Maybe you can share this story with your friends!


'Til next time, love Shirley.

(Answers: 1-Israel; 2-Belteshazzar; 3-Saul; 4-Abram; 5-Peter; 6-Zaphenath-Paneah; 7-Jerub-Baal; 8-Jedidiah)

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Tel: (903) 889-2233 E-mail: shirley@imofinc.org www.imofinc.org

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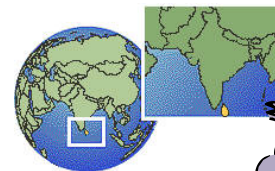
World Kids
Fun facts for kids! true stories!

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Do you know which country is shaped like a tear drop?....

...and many of its inhabitants, along with people from all around the world, have been crying for what happened there just recently.

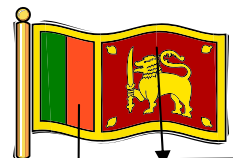


This month we want to tell you about the country called **Sri Lanka**, which was one of the countries hit hardest by the recent tsunami.



Sri Lanka is the small island just off the tip of India, and has about 25,000 sq miles - about the size of West Virginia

Its capital is Colombo and its population is over 18 million. Two thirds of Sri Lankans are Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhists; about 3 million are Tamils, who are mostly Hindus and whose ancestors came from India; and there are about a million Muslims, with the remaining people coming from different backgrounds and beliefs. The flag of Sri Lanka is very interesting as you can see from this picture.



green and orange stripes

yellow lion on brown

Sri Lanka is a beautiful island with golden beaches lined with palm trees. Many fishing villages are found along the coastline, as there are plenty of fish in the sea to provide food.



The land is also very fertile and many exotic foods are grown - including tea, rice, spices, coconuts and tropical fruits. It is no surprise that almost half the people are farmers.

Rubber is also tapped from the trees and in the big cities there are lots of factories, many of which produce beautiful clothes that are sold around the world. The capital city is very crowded with buses, cars, 3-wheeled taxis and carts drawn with bullocks! Another interesting industry in this surprising country is gems. There are many mineshafts found not only in the mountains, but also in the middle of paddy (rice) fields, that lead deep underground, where people find rubies and emeralds and other gorgeous precious stones!



Sri Lanka was famous around the world for centuries because of its tea - but then its name was Ceylon. Like many countries its name has been changed.

NAME GAME

The following people in the Bible were given new names. Look up the scripture verse alongside each one and write the new name in the blank.

1. JACOB was also called _____ Genesis 32:28
2. DANIEL was also called _____ Daniel 2:26
3. PAUL was also called _____ Acts 13:9
4. ABRAHAM was also called _____ Genesis 17:5
5. SIMON was also called _____ Luke 6:14
6. JOSEPH was also called _____ Genesis 41:45
7. GIDEON was also called _____ Judges 6:32
8. SOLOMON was also called _____ 2 Samuel 12:25

It's not surprising that this beautiful island has attracted many tourists, and in recent years many hotels and resorts have drawn visitors from all around the world. Sri Lanka has many times been called a "pearl", but now it often reminds people of a teardrop. Sadly for many years since 1980 there has been civil war and lots of violence, as Tamil guerillas in the north and east have fought government forces, bombing buildings and killing many people. Also in recent years there have been many cases of Buddhists burning down churches and homes of Christians, to try to stop them from preaching the Gospel.

Then, as you probably know, on the morning after Christmas in 2004, a violent earthquake caused a HUGE tsunami (or tidal wave) that swept away towns, villages and tens of thousands of people. Lives were changed forever in several countries, including Sri Lanka. Even this beautiful, lush, "jewel" of a country was almost destroyed in only a few minutes. This could make us very frightened and we could live the rest of our lives in fear.



But JESUS came to tell us about ETERNAL LIFE - that we can live forever with him in heaven, even after our life on the earth is finished. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can trust that He loves us and will take care of us.



In Isaiah 43:2 God promises He will be with us to protect us even through floods and fires.

In another place hit by the tsunami, the Muslims in a town called Meulaboh, told the 400 Christians there that they could not celebrate Christmas inside the town but had to go outside to a high hill to celebrate. So all the Christians left on December 25th and held their Christmas service on the mountain. They decided to stay the night there, as it was so late. As we know, the tsunami hit the next morning and destroyed most of the town, killing many people, although the Christians were safe. Now the Muslims are asking why God spared the Christians!