**2023 AiG VBS**

**Recipient Child Stories**

**DAY 1: Meet Ehani, from Nepal**

WHERE: Today, we will meet a little girl named Ehani from Nepal, a country that is sandwiched between China and India. In Nepal, primary and secondary education is free, but many children still cannot afford the additional expenses that come with public schooling, such as textbooks, uniforms, and other school supplies. Without basic education, it is difficult for people in Nepal to get a well-paying job.

WHO: Ehani would like nothing more than to be able to go to school. Unlike some children in the US who view school as a chore or a burden, Ehani is eager to learn and looks forward to being able to attend school. With her mother’s low income working in the fields, what little money she earns is used to pay for food and rent on their small apartment.

When a local pastor knocked on their door one day, he brought with him a box of food provided by Children’s Hunger Fund. With enough food to last them a few days, Ehani’s mother is able to put aside a little bit of money each day to go toward other expenses like books and a school uniform. The pastor also shared with Ehani’s family about Jesus.

**DAY 2: Meet Chiumbo, from Kenya**

WHERE: Kenya is a country on the eastern coast of Africa. Whether due to abandonment or the death of at least one parent, there could be as many as 3.6 million orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya, where orphanages are often privately-run and not well maintained.

WHO: At a young age, Chiumbo became an orphan. But Chiumbo was very fortunate that he was taken in by a kind and generous woman who chose to care for him as if he were her own child. But even in her generosity, caring for Chiumbo presents an additional challenge of feeding one more person on a limited income.

The blessing of food from a local pastor means that there is enough food for everyone in Chiumbo’s home to eat. But even better than the food is the fact that the pastor who visits really cares for the family. He shares with them about the God who loves them and that they have a choice to follow Him.

**DAY 3: Meet Orik, from Albania**

WHERE: Albania is a country on the eastern side of Europe’s Balkan Peninsula, just up the coast from Greece. Since the fall of communism in 1991, the country of Albania was left with extremely high levels of poverty. While the government continues to work toward reforms that will lower poverty rates, it is a long process.

WHO: Even though Orik has a roof over his head and someone to care for him, his situation is far from ideal. The building where he lives is drafty and cold. There is no electricity and no water in the building. In the winter, he has to wear several layers of clothing to stay warm. At night, he usually goes to bed hungry.

Orik and his sister look forward to visits from the pastor. The food that he brings makes his grandmother worry less and helps his father feel stronger. But even more than the food that helps to ease Orik’s hunger, the pastor shares with them about Jesus and teaches them how they should live. Orik’s family has started to have hope.

**DAY 4: Meet Diego, from Honduras**

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet a little boy named Diego, who lives in Honduras. Every year, about twelve to fifteen storms move through the Caribbean, causing widespread destruction and flooding when they make landfall. In November of 2020, two hurricanes swept across Honduras in a matter of only two weeks, destroying homes, destroying bridges, and leaving people without electricity or clean water.

WHO: Diego was a baby the last time a major storm passed over Honduras. Before the storms that destroyed his home, he had a fairly comfortable life. His family wasn’t rich, but he had a home and didn’t have to worry about when he would eat his next meal. When the hurricane came and destroyed his home, Diego didn’t know where his family was going to live.

A local church came to where his family had relocated and offered them food. There were a lot of people who had lost everything. Two weeks later, while relief efforts were still happening, a second hurricane hit. Thankfully, no one in Diego’s family was hurt in either of the two storms. The people from the church who helped them shared with them about the gospel and told them that God loves them even when bad things happen.

**DAY 5: Meet Olivia, from the United States**

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet someone who lives right here in the United States. Sometimes, it’s hard to see poverty when it happens in your own community. Poverty exists all over the world, even where you live. Poverty takes on many different appearances, and it is often hard to see.

WHO: Just a few years ago, Olivia and her family had a pretty good life. Her parents both had jobs, and they had no problem paying all their bills. When the pandemic hit, everything changed. Like many people across America, Olivia’s parents both lost their jobs. Suddenly, they had no way to pay their bills or even buy food to eat.

They learned about a local church that was distributing food and were able to get enough food to last them a few weeks. The people from the church didn’t judge them because they needed help. They asked how they could help and even prayed with Olivia and her family. When Olivia’s dad found a job, the church was there to celebrate and support them.