**2025 AiG VBS**

**Recipient Child Stories**

**DAY 1: Meet Aye Ko, from Myanmar**

WHERE: Myanmar (formerly called Burma) is a country in Southeast Asia. Over 70% of Myanmar’s population live in rural communities, relying primarily on agriculture to makes ends meet. Yet despite Myanmar’s fertile land, rural communities are home to most of the country’s poor.

WHO: Aye Ko [pronounced Eye Co] knows what it feels like to go to bed hungry. There have been many days throughout his life when the money Aye Ko’s father made wasn’t enough to provide adequate food for the whole family. Sometimes, the money had to be used for medicine or repairs for their home.

Aye Ko is excited about his baby sister, but he is old enough to know what it will mean for his family. When she is older, she will need more food to eat, just like Aye Ko and his brothers. The food delivered by members of the local church meant that Aye Ko and his family didn’t have to live off only what his father made that day. It gave him hope for a better future.

**DAY 2: Meet Jasper, from Zambia**

WHERE: Zambia is a country in southern Africa. There are over 80,000 refugees living in Zambia, primarily from the Democratic Republic of Congo. A refugee is someone who has been forced to leave their country to escape conflict, natural disaster, or horrible living conditions.

WHO: When Jasper and his family left home, he thought that things would get better. After all, the violence that forced them to leave their home country wasn’t a problem in Zambia. Instead, Jasper discovered a new set of problems. First, he had to learn a new language! Learning anything at all became a struggle since he couldn’t attend school without a Zambian birth certificate, something Jasper and his brother don’t have.

The only work Jasper’s mother and grandmother could find paid very little money and was not something they could rely on every day. When a nearby church started delivering food to his home, Jasper thought that was as good as it was going to get for him. Then he found out that the church had a school he could attend. But it didn’t even stop there! Jasper also learned about Jesus.

**DAY 3: Meet Luis, from the Dominican Republic**

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet a boy who lives in a batey [pronounced bah-tay in the Dominican Republic]. A batey is a settlement around a sugar mill for the workers and their families. There are over 400 bateyes in the Dominican Republic housing about 500,000 permanent residents. Many residents in bateyes lack basic services such as running water and electricity.

WHO: Luis [pronounced Loo-eece (emphasis on *eece*)] has lived in the batey his whole life, but he doesn’t want to live there forever. He isn’t afraid to work hard, but he knows there are better opportunities than working in the sugarcane fields. Luis dreams of a future outside of the batey, but this is the only life he’s ever known. He doesn’t know how he would ever learn the skills to do anything other than chop sugarcane like his father.

The day a pastor showed up at Luis’ door with a Food Pak was the first day Luis started to believe that his future might be different. The pastor really seemed to care about Luis and his family. He gave them food, but he also shared with them about Jesus. In addition to giving him hope for his earthly future, the pastor gave Luis hope for his eternal future, as well.

**DAY 4: Meet Misha, from Belarus**

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet a little girl who lives in the country of Belarus. Belarus is located in Eastern Europe that is surrounded on all sides by other countries. Roughly 77% of the population of Belarus lives in urban communities.

WHO: Misha is the youngest of three girls. For most of her life, she had never experienced prolonged hunger. When Misha’s father died, her mother had no way to provide for her children and no family nearby to help with childcare while she looked for work. The money the family had been able to save while Misha’s father was alive was running low, and they still didn’t have a long-term solution.

When someone from a nearby church came to Misha’s home, they brought food for them to eat. Not only did they care about the family’s physical needs, but they took the time to get to know them, too. The people from the church shared with Misha’s family about Jesus and how He came to save them from their sins.

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

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet someone who lives in the United States. Despite living in one of the richest countries in the world, 1 in 7 children in the United States lives in poverty, without the assurance of regular meals. Most of these children live in homes or apartments and attend school. It’s not always easy to see that they are in need.

WHO: Maia and her family live on a large plot of land in Texas. Her father owns his own business. These sound like good things, right? Well, if her father hadn’t gotten hurt and been unable to work for several months, Maia’s story would probably be very different. Instead, Maia’s family has a lot of expenses and no income to pay for them. They also had no way to buy food.

When the pastor of a nearby church learned of Maia’s family’s situation, he started visiting them with Food Paks. Even though it’s a pretty long drive from the church to Maia’s home, the pastor kept visiting them every few weeks. Every time he visited, he shared good news with them about Jesus. The pastor hadn’t forgotten about Maia and assured her that Jesus would never forget about her, either.