

Job Box

Description: guess missionary occupations from clues, plus coloring pages

Aim: teach children that missionaries do different jobs and to pray for missionaries

Audience:

preschool, any size class with adequate helpers

Time: 2-5 minutes

Equipment:

shoebox filled with items listed

Scripture to Study:

Colossians 3:17



Partners in Bible Translation

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Leader's Instructions:

Pre-class Preparations:

1. Gift wrap the items listed on pages 2-4 and store them in your classroom for use each week.
2. Cover a shoebox with plain brown or white paper.
3. Copy the coloring page that goes with each week's job.

Class Time:

1. On the first week, let your children decorate the shoebox with travel stickers, available from stationary and toy stores. Choose a theme like African animals, foreign buildings or ethnic faces. Put one wrapped item in the box.
2. Tell the children, "Missionaries need a big team in order to tell other people about Jesus. One person can't do it all alone! Each week we'll learn about a new kind of job on the missionary team." Let one child pick the gift-wrapped item out of the box and hold it as you discuss what job it represents.
3. If you know a missionary who does that job, personalize the lesson by showing his or her picture. Then pray for that missionary. Keep it brief and they'll love joining in as full-fledged prayer partners. Teach them to pray, for instance, by having the children repeat the simple prayer, "*Lord, please use John to fly Bibles into parts of Africa where they don't have any yet.*"
4. Have the child put the item back in the box and then next week slip a new gift-wrapped item inside. Always have the volunteer child unwrap the new item first. Discuss it and then go on to review the previous item. Call up as many children as there are items. Review as many as the children's attention span will stand. Each class and each week may have varying windows of attention. Be flexible to keep them looking forward to next week.
5. Introduce the following missionary careers with items listed on pages 2-4.
6. Color the page that goes with each week's job.

Missionary jobs you could do one day:

Notes:

1. Pilot—toy airplane and/or helicopter

Missionary pilots fly airplanes and helicopters. They bring Bibles to people. They fly people to the doctor when they are sick. They bring food and supplies to missionaries who live faraway from stores.

“Dear God, please use (missionary’s name) to fly Bibles into (country) where they don’t have Bibles yet.”

2. Bible translation team—little New Testament

Bible translators work in teams to write the Bible in other languages so everyone in the world can read God’s Word.

“Heavenly Father, please help (missionary team’s name) learn (the language of the people well). Help them write the Bible so everyone can understand Your Word very well.”

3. Builder—play hammer

Builders can be missionaries, too. They can build churches, schools, missionary houses and hospitals. They build all sorts of places where people can hear about Jesus!

“Dear God, please give (missionary’s name) the strength to build things for you in (country).”

4. Doctor and nurse—toy stethoscope or thermometer

Missionary doctors and nurses help sick people get well.

“Dear God, tell (missionary’s name) how to make sick people well, even when they have a strange sickness.”

5. Literacy (Reading) Teacher—ABC book

Literacy teachers help people learn to read. Then people can read their new Bibles! They can read other books, too.

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) teach people to read so they can learn about You!”

Notes:

6. Computer Specialist—miniature plastic computer

Computer specialists can be missionaries, too! They help print Bibles, figure out languages and lots of fun stuff.

“Heavenly Father, please make (missionary’s name) really smart with computers so people will hear about Jesus more quickly.”

7. Relief Worker—ziplock bag of rice

Some missionaries pass out food when storms or wars ruin people’s gardens and farms.

“Dear God, please show (missionary’s name) how to get food to the people who need it in (country).”

8. Evangelist—toy megaphone or microphone

Some missionaries stand up in front of groups of people. They tell them all about Jesus and ask them to believe in Him as their Savior and Lord.

“Dear God, please give (missionary’s name) the strength to tell lots of people about Jesus.”

9. Artist—paint brushes

Some missionaries draw the pictures that go in new Bibles.

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) to draw good pictures for the new Bibles.”

10. Mechanic—toy wrench

Some missionaries fix missionary airplanes, helicopters, motorcycles and cars.

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) figure out how to fix the machines that are broken.”

Notes:

11. Secretary—toy telephone

Some missionaries answer phones, type and do other office jobs.

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) get all those office jobs done well.”

12. Musician—musical instrument of your choosing

Some missionaries help faraway people write their own type of music to worship God. (They are called ethnomusicologists’!)

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) study the (people group’s name) music and help the people write Christian songs.”

13. Guest House Host/ess—apron with spoon and duster

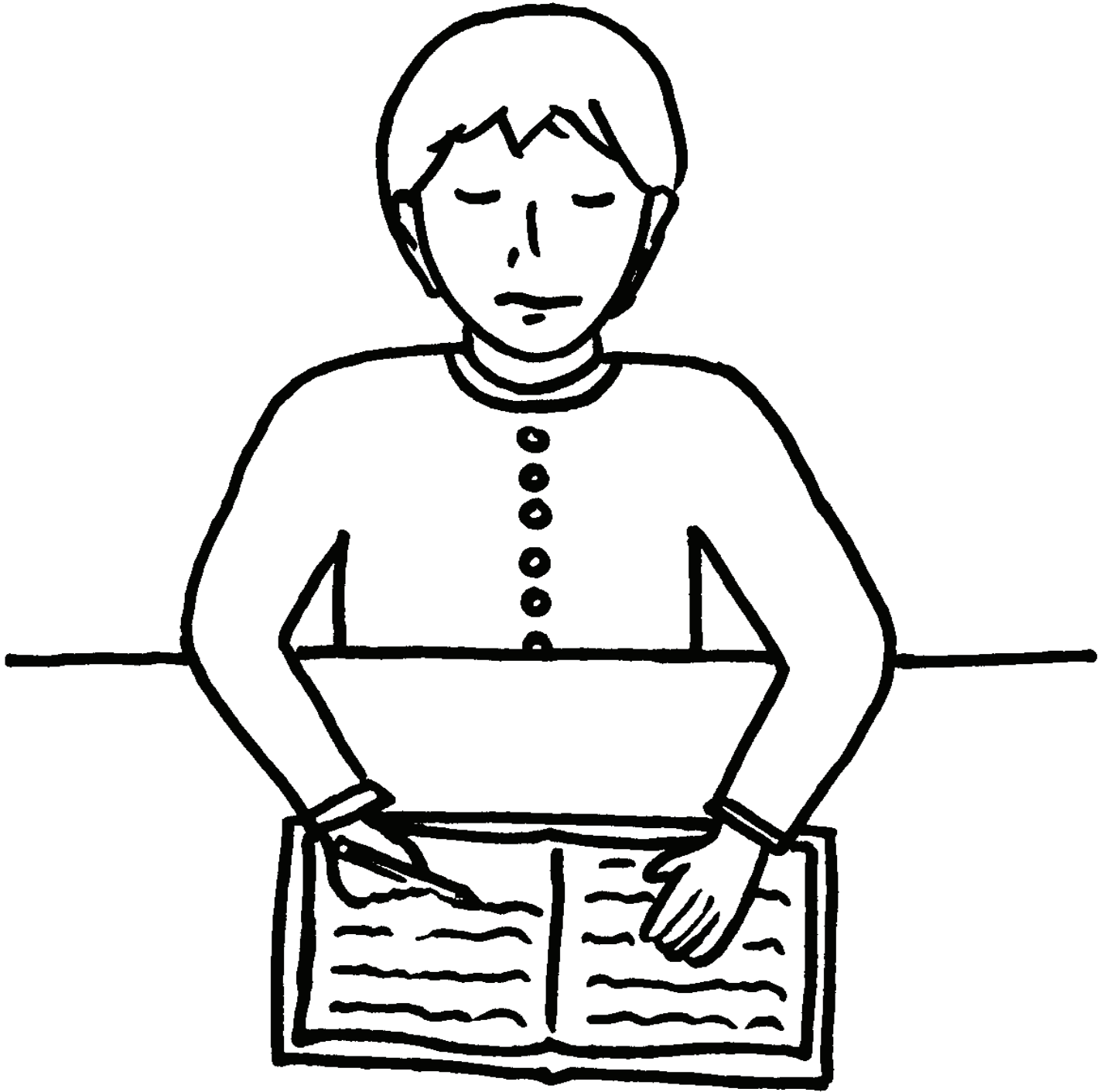
Some missionaries take care of a big house, like a hotel, where other missionaries stay when they come to the big city.

“Dear God, please help (missionary’s name) to cook good meals and make the rooms nice and comfortable for people who come to stay.”

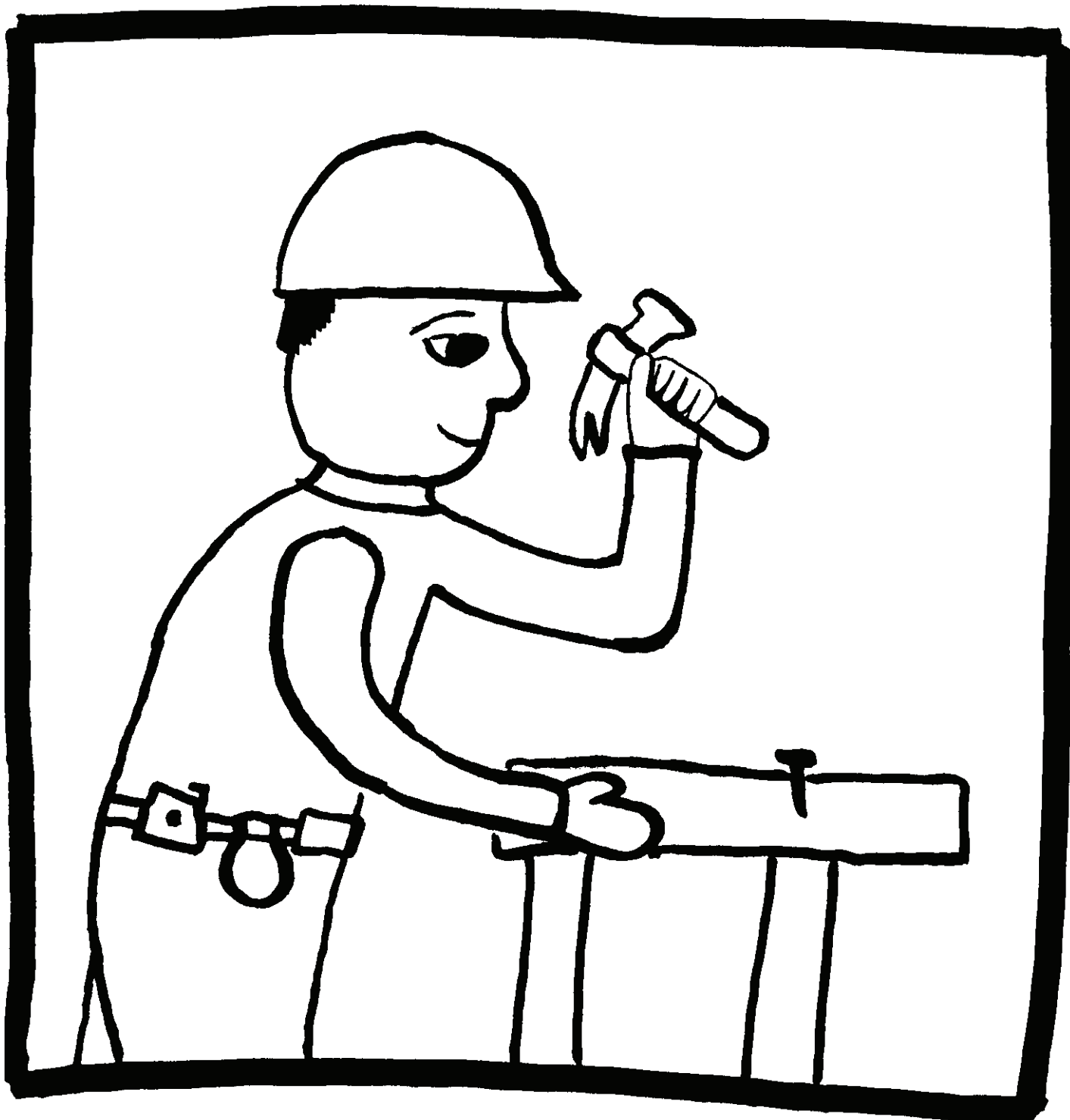
14. Other creative items you come up with!



Missionary pilots fly airplanes. They bring Bibles to people. They take sick people to doctors. And they bring food and supplies to missionaries who live faraway from stores. Sometimes they bring missionaries in and out of the villages if there are no roads for cars. Do you know a missionary pilot you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary pilot when you grow up?



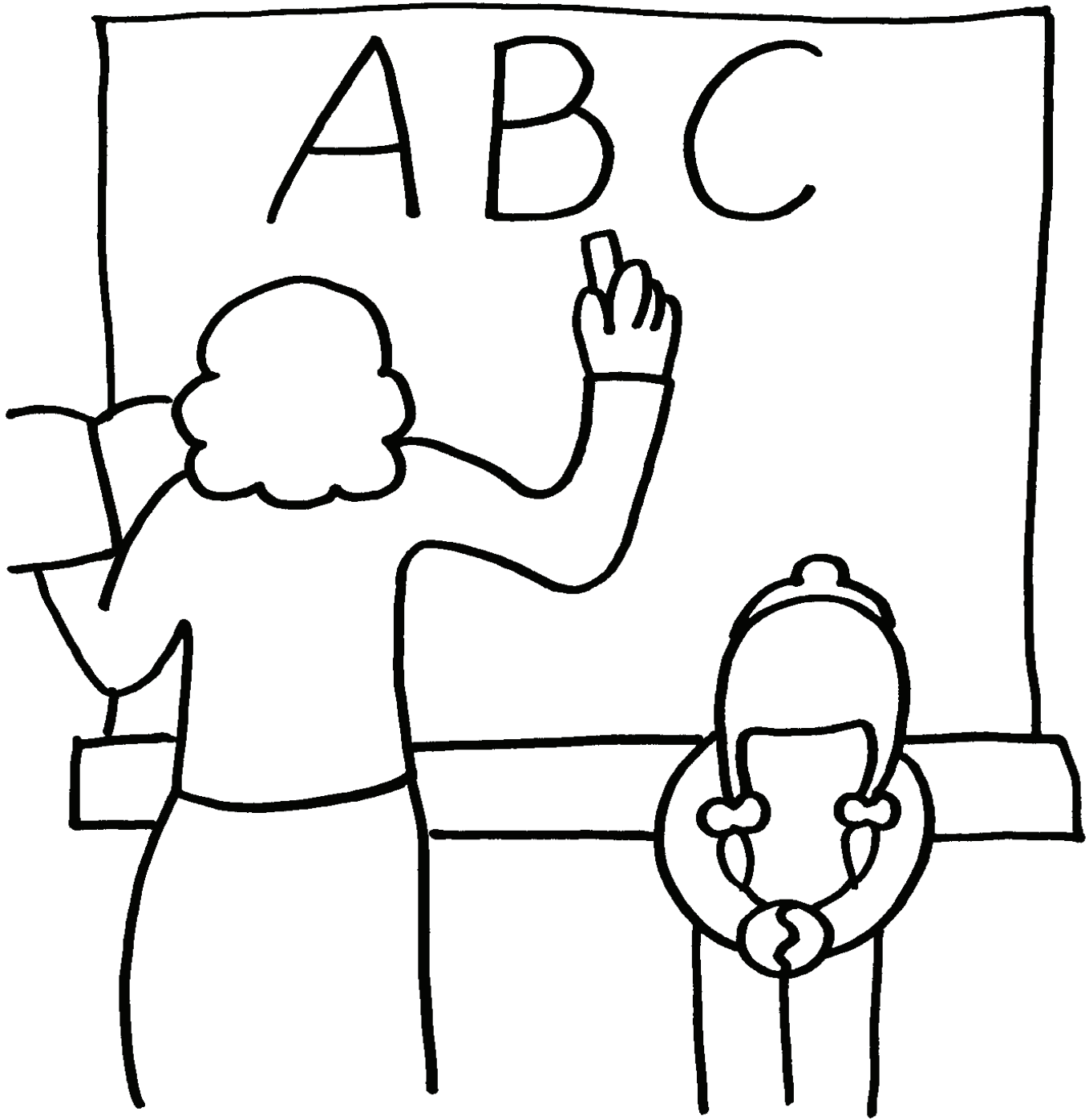
Bible translators learn different languages. They work in teams to write the Bible in those languages so everyone in the world can read God's Word. Do you know a Bible translator you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a Bible translator when you grow up?



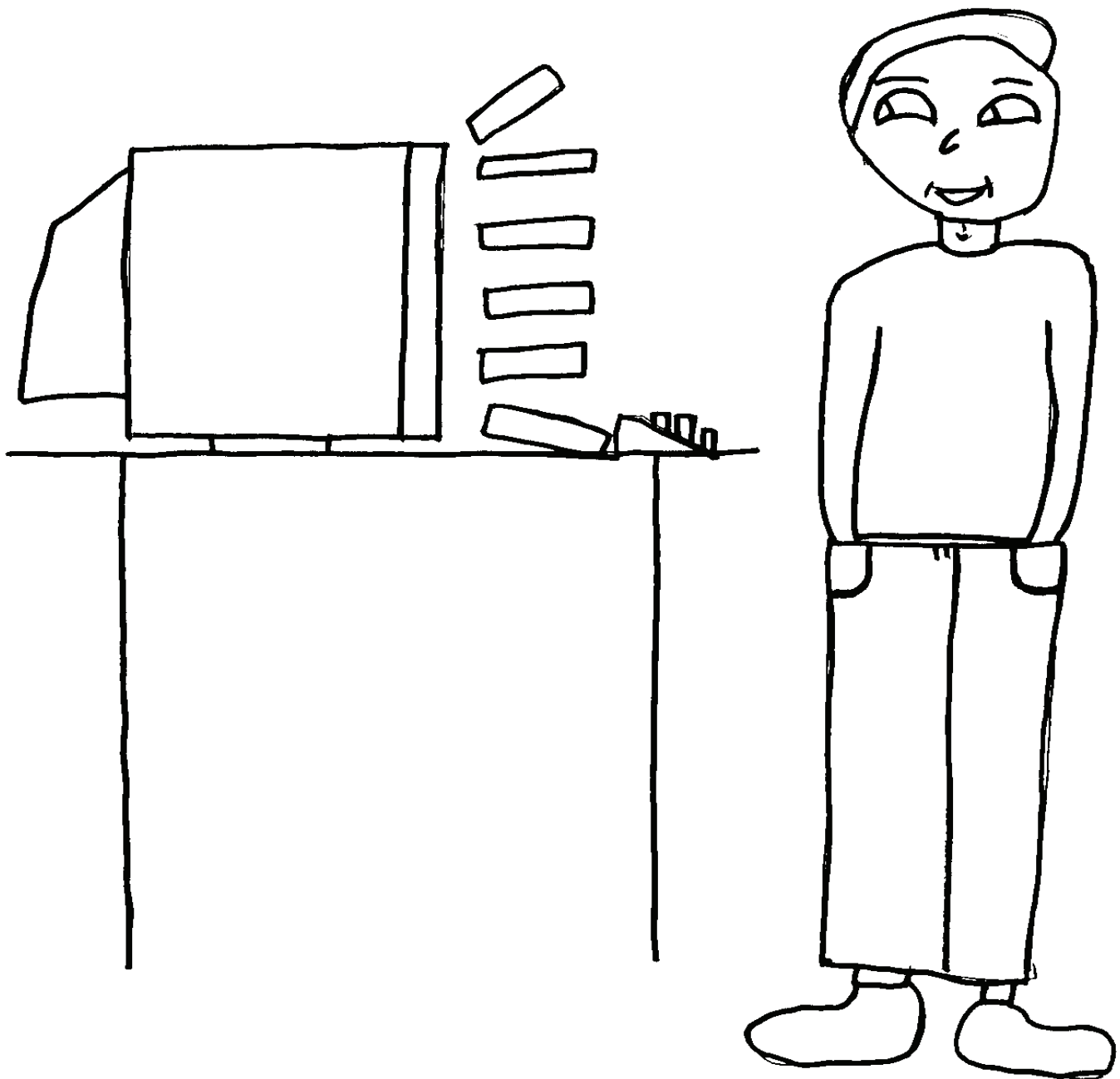
Builders can be missionaries, too. They can build churches, houses, schools and hospitals. They build all sorts of places where people can hear about Jesus! Do you know a builder you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary and a builder



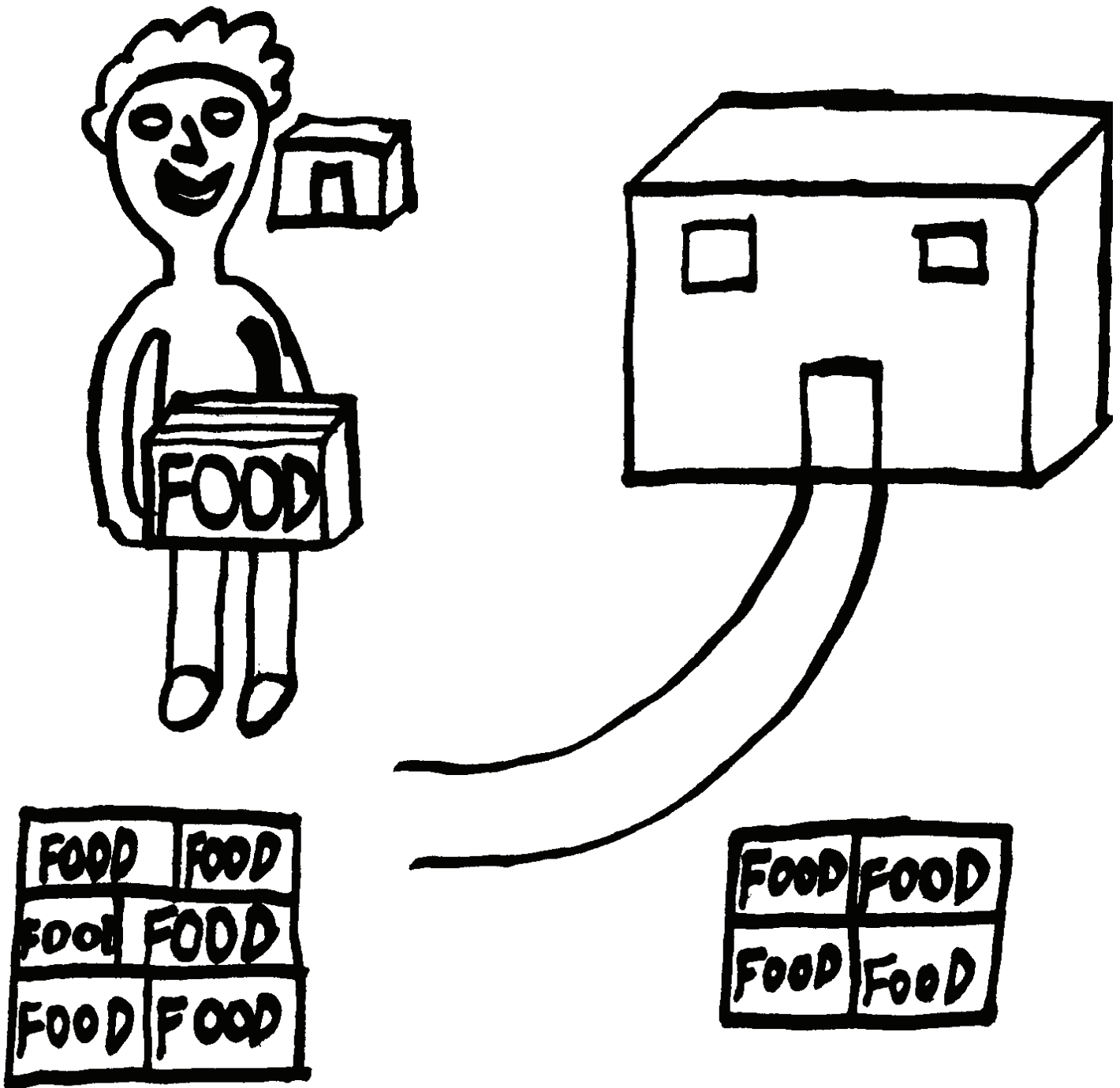
Missionary doctors and nurses help sick people get well. Do you know a missionary doctor or nurse you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary doctor or nurse when you grow up?



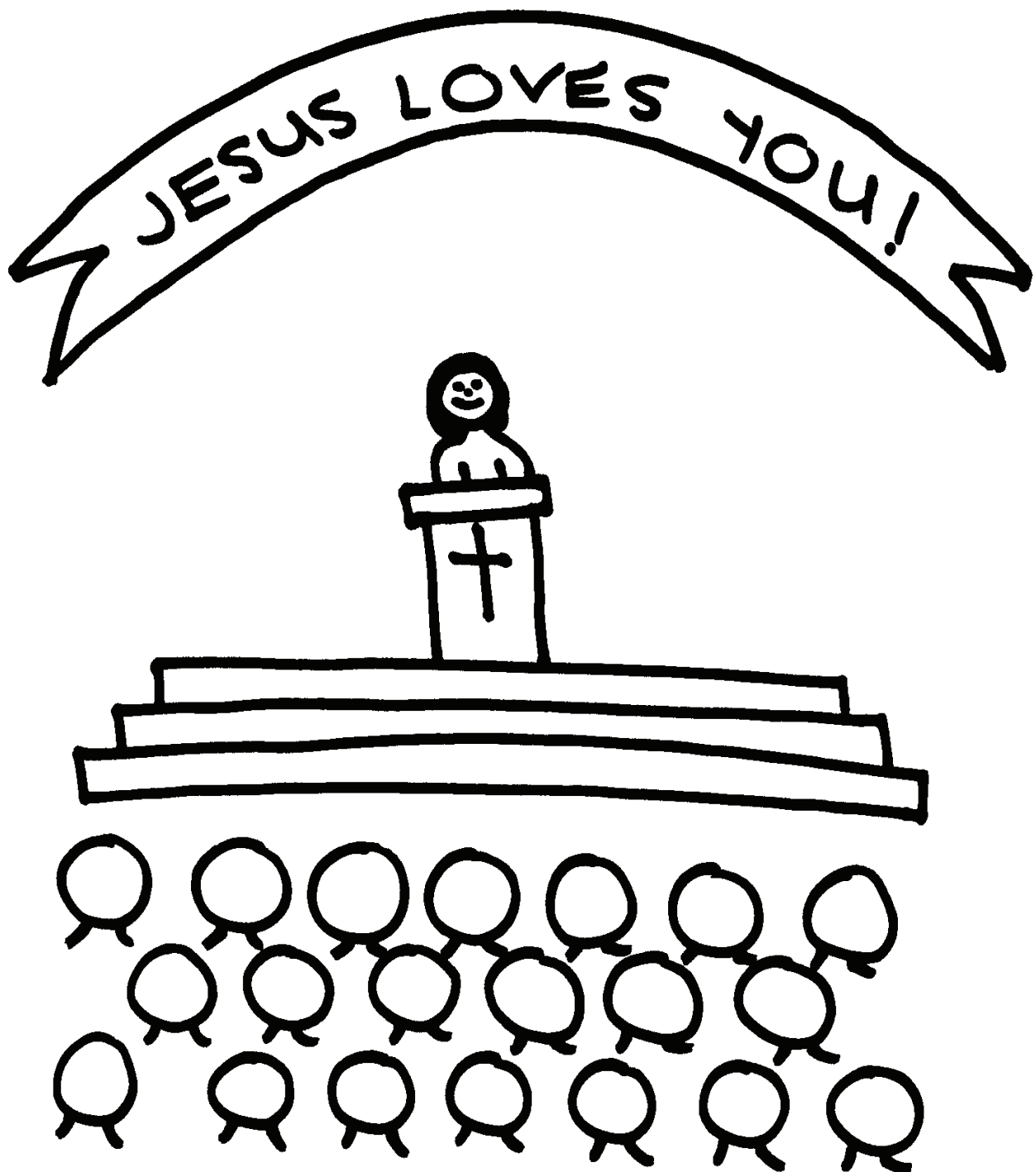
Literacy teachers help people learn to read. Then the people can read their new Bibles! They can read other books, too. Do you know a literacy teacher you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a literacy teacher when you grow up?



Computer specialists can be missionaries, too. They help print Bibles, figure out languages and lots of other fun stuff. It all helps more people to hear about Jesus. Do you know a computer specialist you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary and a computer specialist at the same time when you grow up?



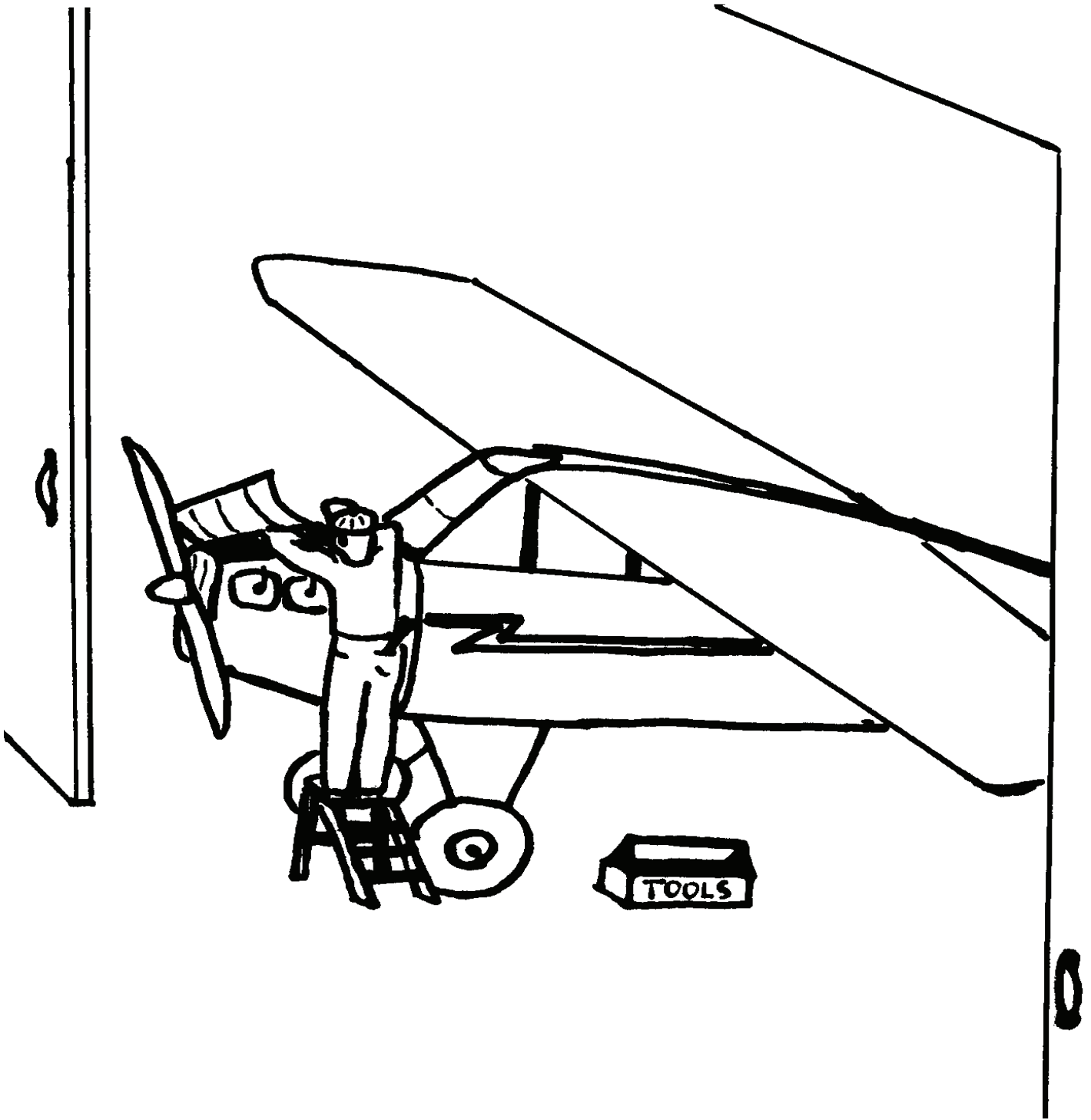
Some missionaries pass out food and clothing when storms or wars ruin people's farms. These missionaries are called 'relief workers.' But they don't just give food and clothing. They tell people about Jesus at the same time. Do you know a relief worker you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary relief worker when you grow up?



Some missionaries stand up in front of groups of people. These evangelists tell people about Jesus and ask them to believe in Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Do you know an evangelist you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be an evangelist when you grow up? Could you start telling people about Jesus right now?



Artists can be missionaries, too! They draw the pictures that go into Bibles and reading books. Pictures help people understand about Jesus. Do you know a missionary artist you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary artist when you grow up? Could you use your art to tell people about Jesus right now?



Mechanics can be missionaries, too! They fix missionary airplanes, helicopters, motorcycles, cars, and boats. Do you know a missionary mechanic you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary mechanic when you grow up?



Secretaries can be missionaries, too! They answer phones, work with computers and do other office jobs, too. Do you know a missionary secretary you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary secretary when you grow up?

Original artwork donated by **Ty Trautman**, Damascus Christian School



Musicians can be missionaries, too! Their songs tell people about Jesus. Some musicians help new Christians in faraway lands write their very first songs to worship God. (These musicians are called ethnomusicologists!) Do you know a missionary musician you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to be a missionary musician when you grow up? Can you sing songs right now that tell people about Jesus?



People who like to cook and make rooms comfortable can be missionaries, too! They take care of guest houses, like hotels, where other missionaries stay when they come to the big city. Do you know a guest house host or hostess you could pray for right now? Do you think God might want you to do this job when you grow up? Could your family make a comfortable room in your house right now where traveling missionaries could stay for a night?