

International Friendship Day!

Hi, kids!

This month we're going to learn about "Friendship Day." Did you know this day exists? It does! The tradition first started in 1935 when the U.S. Congress decided to make the first Sunday of every August National Friendship Day.

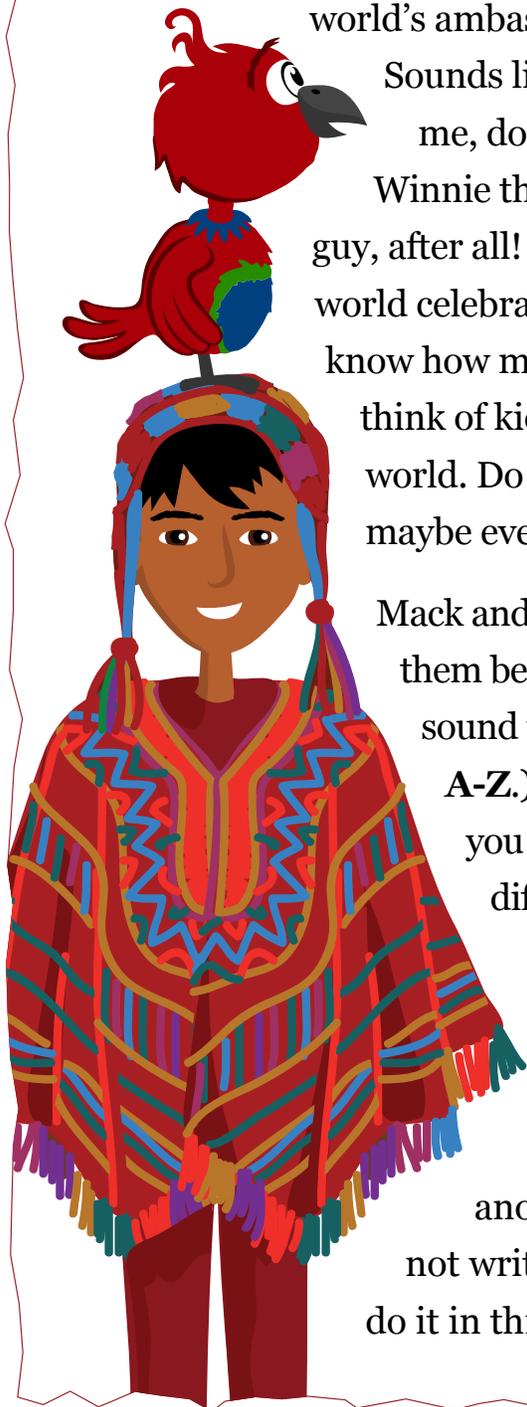
Then years later, in 1997, Winnie the Pooh was named the world's ambassador of friendship.

Sounds like a good idea to me, don't you think, Mack?

Winnie the Pooh is an awfully friendly guy, after all! Now lots of different countries around the world celebrate Friendship Day. It's a day to let your friends know how much you love them! It can also be a fun day to think of kids, just like you, who live in other parts of the world. Do you have any friends that live in another state or maybe even another country?

Mack and I have friends all over the world! You've met some of them before, like Anna, Kojo, Luis and Isabel. (If those names don't sound familiar, you should check out our book at wycliffe.org/A-Z.) Having friends in different countries is a lot of fun, because you get to learn what their lives are like! And they're usually different than our lives, right, Mack?

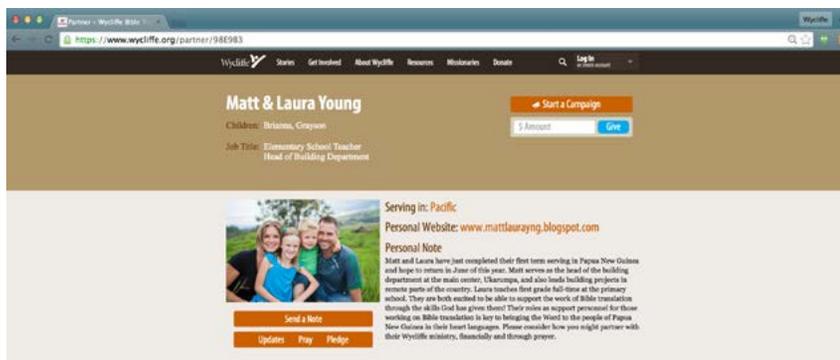
That's why Mack and I thought it would be fun for you to make a friend from somewhere else in the world. One of the easiest ways to do that is through writing an email or letter. Maybe you already write to someone living in another country, but if you don't, we have a great idea: why not write to a missionary kid or their family? It's so easy, you can do it in three simple steps:



1. Go online and visit [wycliffe.org/partner](https://www.wycliffe.org/partner).



2. Find a missionary kid or family (you can search by region of the world, or just look through a list with aaaaallllll the names. Maybe scroll further down the list - that way not everyone writes to the same people. There are lots and lots of pages of missionaries you can choose from!).



3. Click “send a note,” then write what you’d like to say!

A screenshot of a "Send a Note" form. It has a title "Encourage this missionary" and a close button. The form is divided into two sections: "Your Information" with fields for "First Name" and "Last Name", and "Your Message" with a large text area. There is a checkbox for "Send a copy to myself" and a "Send a Note" button at the bottom.

You can introduce yourself and tell the kid or their family things about yourself, like how old you are or what your favorite food is. And you can ask them questions too, if you like! The cool thing is that you can also read things about the kid or their family, like what country they live in, what their names are, what kind of work they do and more. And you can even send them a verse or something to encourage them as they work in another country. After all, who doesn't like getting a letter or note of encouragement?

So go and make a new friend! Maybe you already know someone who needs a friend, like the kid who sits alone at lunchtime or the bus driver who doesn't hear "good morning!" or a "thank you" after driving kids back and forth from school and home every day. It's easy to be a friend to someone, and it's a great way to show the love of God to other people!

Happy Friendship Day!