

# UZIMA

## THE GIFT OF A LATRINE



### 'TRINE TRIVIA!

- **THE AVERAGE PERSON GOES 2500 TIMES A YEAR, WHICH CAN ADD UP TO 3 YEARS OF YOUR LIFE SPENT ON THE TOILET!**
- **THE TOILET ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COST \$31 MILLION CAD!**
- **IN CHINA, THERE ARE PUBLIC TOILETS FOR DOGS!**

## EVERYBODY NEEDS ONE.

Latrine, potty, water closet, privy, powder room, outhouse, port-o-john, jonnie, bathroom, throne. Doesn't matter what you call it, everyone around the world needs one: a TOILET.

**But did you know that 2.5 billion people in the world don't have access to a clean and safe toilet?** That's 1 out of every 3 people! Take a minute to think about that. If they don't have a toilet, does that mean they don't "go?" Nope. Everybody GOES. So then where do they GO?...

Well, *wherever they can*: the backyard, forests, rivers, fields. This can be hard to imagine when many of us have more than one toilet in our own home and can find one almost everywhere we go.

In Laos, where people living in villages struggle to grow enough food to eat, a latrine can seem like an impossible luxury. But it's not a luxury! In fact, **a latrine is the key to good health.**

Because when people just go in the bushes near their home, pretty soon everything smells and germs are everywhere.

In the village of Maideua, Mrs. Ohd (on the right in the beautiful dress) and her fellow villagers used the forest as a bathroom until a health team supported by World Renew helped her and her village understand the connection between hygiene and health. And then, with support from World Renew, the village worked hard to build latrines at every home, including Mrs. Ohd's. She doesn't have to go to the forest anymore and enjoys better health.

Call it what you want. **A toilet is a tool for health and definitely part of living an abundant life.**



**LITTLE MORE THAN \$1 SPENT ON SANITATION CAN SAVE OVER \$5 IN HEALTHCARE COSTS WORLDWIDE**

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## KEEP IT CLEAN

Imagine this sign at a campground: "You shall have a designated area outside the camp to which you shall go. With your utensils you shall have a trowel; when you relieve yourself outside, you shall dig a hole with it and then cover up your excrement." A little flowery, but pretty good advice for campers!

That's actually part of Levitical law and it wasn't really about sanitation. Cleanliness in the Old Testament is *ritual* cleanliness. To be clean was to be pure before God. In fact, the next verses in Deuteronomy 23 say this: "Because the Lord your God travels along with your camp, to save you and to hand over your enemies to you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you." **To be clean was to be pure and holy, prepared for the presence of God.**

We use the language of "clean" and "dirty" today. A raunchy tv show might be described as dirty or music with

sexual lyrics excised is called clean. When children talk about their bodies and the bathroom we sometimes call it "potty talk" and outlaw it.

The association of toilets and taboo persists. Many of us feel awkward talking about bathroom matters. Some feel shy about using the restroom when others are present, even to such a degree that psychology has named it (paruresis, FYI). **So talking about toilets can be awkward.**

**We need to get over this.** One in three people in the world today do not have a toilet. Lack of latrines is such a big deal that the UN named access to clean toilets as one of its sustainable development goals. It's such a big deal that there is a World Toilet Day (November 19).

If we paused every time we used the bathroom to give thanks for the privilege, we would be giving thanks for 3 years of our life. Thessalonians 5:18 says "In every thing give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Toilets as spiritual discipline — pretty good advice for all of us.

## EXTRAS!

**Enhance your lesson with a book, video, or game!**

For a great resource about the weird and wonderful history of toilets, try Fiona MacDonald's book **You Wouldn't Want To Live Without Toilets**. Aimed at grades 5-8, parts of it can be a read-aloud for many grades and activities give kids the chance to further engage.

## THE PRIVY PRIVILEGE

**For just \$62, you can help a villager in Laos access not just better sanitation but better health and all the blessings that come with it!**

If you're looking for an easy and humorous way to collect money for latrines, how about a **toilet as a collection bowl**? Kids will think it's hilarious to watch the bowl fill up with change as they earn!

If your group is a little more on the modest side, you can still **create a great visual using toilet paper rolls**. Set your fundraising goal and, as kids earn, stack TP rolls somewhere highly visible. Maybe your Sunday School class would like to stack them right up to the ceiling!

The World Health Organization estimates that every dollar spent on sanitation yields over \$4 in savings from decreased healthcare costs and lost productivity due to illness. Middle school and high school kids can surely understand that ratio and may be highly motivated if their **fundraising not only tracks money earned for latrines but also money (and lives!) saved**. Consider having a "dual-goal" that tracks both numbers!

For more ideas, visit [www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas](http://www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas)



If you Google "**Around the World in 45 Toilets**," you can find a short and eye-opening slideshow from Reuters that will get kids thinking about how other people live.

It's not for the faint of heart, but a rousing game of **Toilet Tag** may be just the thing. Online instructions abound.



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