



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Noah's Ark International

Noah's Ark was established by Christian businessman, Samuel Masih, who observed how middlemen demanded fees, leaving metalworkers with very little pay. Although he knew nothing of the Fair Trade movement, he set out to ensure better wages for the impoverished artisans. Forty artisan groups representing 300 full-time artisans now work with Noah's Ark creating metal and wood crafts, cutlery, handmade paper, bone and horn items, jewellery and textiles. Noah's Handicrafts and Welfare Society provides free nutrition, medical services and basic education for artisans and their families. In addition, Noah's Ark's artisans are trained to better manage product development, and raw materials are supplied to family units who are then paid a piece rate for each finished product. As businesses become more self-sufficient, Noah's Ark takes on new families. Since their inception, about 20 workshops have become independent. Recently, the organization has also established three schools for artisans' children who might otherwise have little opportunity for education.

Rounded Bell Chimes

Calming and uplifting at the same time, nine gold-coloured bells gently chime when touched by hand or wind. Created by Noah's Ark in India. The cost of metal has skyrocketed there, which has had a devastating effect on the local economy and on the lives of individual makers. Noah's Ark has worked hard to train artisans in using alternative metals and material.



Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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