

World Champions

OM New Zealand's newsletter for children who want to make a difference in God's World!

Country focus: Afghanistan

Topic:
Pray for what pleases God



Welcome to Afghanistan! This inland country is home to about 29 million people, and nearly all of them are Muslims.

Life has been difficult in Afghanistan. There has been lots of fighting, and until a few years ago, the country was controlled by a group of people called the

Taliban, who were very strict, and forced people to follow many laws. Women especially had a tough time. They couldn't show their faces, and girls couldn't go to school. It's great that there's more freedom now, but people still are very poor and most don't know that God loves them.

Afghanistan really need World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Bible reading:

How do we pray?
And what
do we pray for?
Read what Jesus
taught his disciples
about praying in
Matthew 6:5-13



This month's memory verse:

Many people in Afghanistan speak and write in Pashto. It is very different to English! Can you use the Pashto code letters to figure out what this month's memory verse is?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
خ	ځ	ځ	ځ	د	د	ذ	ذ	ر	ر	ب	ب	ت
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
ح	ص	ج	ج	ص	ث	ش	ث	ش	ت	س	س	س

خ س ذ ث خ ذ ث سر خ ث ش د خ د ځ د ځ د ج

ش ث د ح خ ث ت ث ص س ث خ د ن ب ب ر ج

ث خ ذ ج ث س د ب ش خ د ج س د ن ج

5:14 س د س ر 1 . تر ن ش د ش خ د ب ت

1 5:14

World Champions in Afghanistan:

It's not easy to be a Christian in Afghanistan. A few years ago, Afghanistan was one of the hardest countries to be a Christian in, and there were hardly any Christians there. There are a few more now, but they can get into a lot of trouble for being Christians, and instead of meeting in church buildings, (there are none!), they meet in each others' homes. Most people have no idea what it means to be able to have a relationship with God.

We have people from around the world working in Afghanistan as well, helping poor people and trying to show them that God loves them. Listen to what one of our workers says:



Twice a week I run a club for 12-15 children from one big family. We do some English conversation and then read the Bible in the local language.

I've been trying to get them to pray, even just a quick thank you prayer. But they would laugh at each other and not know how to pray. I was getting a bit frustrated.

So then I would say the prayer and they would repeat after me. After about three weeks, I once again asked the children if anyone would like to pray.

I was delighted when one of the older girls said she would. So without having to copy what I said, she said her own short prayer! It brought such joy to my heart. May they all learn to be relaxed and have joy in talking with God.

Did you know:

It's common to see brightly coloured sheep in Afghanistan! They're not born this way - shepherds dye them different colours so they can tell which sheep belong to different families. Follow the numbers and colour these sheep in to find out the word for 'sheep' in Pashto. (Clue - it's a **BIG** word!)

1 = white 2 = red 3 = blue 4 = orange 5 = green 6 = purple



Did you know:



Carrots were first grown in Afghanistan. People brought them from Afghanistan to Europe at about the same time that Jesus was on earth about 2000 years ago.

A popular sport in Afghanistan is kite fighting. People cover their kite strings with powdered glass and flour. They then try to move their kites against each other's strings, hopefully cutting them. The last kite flying is the winner!



A The only country whose name begins with "A", but doesn't end in "A" is Afghanistan.

It's normal for families to live together with their cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents in one group of buildings. The women work together to take care of all the children. Grandmothers are in charge of cooking and cleaning, while Grandfathers are in charge of everybody's money. How would you like to live like that?

About half the men in Afghanistan can read and write. Only one out of five women in Afghanistan can though!



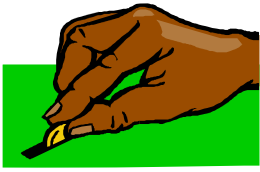
World Champions... Pray!

God wants us to pray for things that please Him. But how do we know how to pray or what to pray for? Sometimes we can be selfish in our praying, or pray for things that go against what God says are good in the Bible.

Talk with another Christian about what are good things to pray for.

You can be a World Champion by praying for people in Afghanistan. Just like the worker in Afghanistan needed to teach the children how to pray, show this man from Afghanistan some good things to pray for. In his speech bubbles, write some good things to pray for the people in Afghanistan. Share your ideas with someone, and remember to pray them yourself this month!





World Champions... Give!

You can also be a World Champion by giving. This little boy in the photo has just been given a pair of new shoes.



Because of war and drought, people in Afghanistan don't have very much food or money. So our workers there are helping as much as they can.

Here are some of the things they gave out one year:

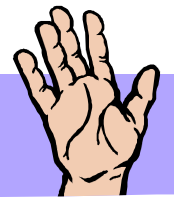
- 5,630,000 kg of food, 65,600 blankets, 11,200 quilts, 46,100 family bags of clothes and 150,000 pairs of shoes
- 20,000 UNICEF Back to School kits, 1,000 Samaritan's Purse children's gift boxes

They can only do this with the help of peoples' donations. Will you help too?

If you would like to, you can ask an adult to help you send some money to us to send our team in Afghanistan. This can help them to keep helping children as well as teaching them about God's love.

Thank you!!!

to the children at Kelston Community Church who washed car's windows at their church to raise money for our work with children in Afghanistan and some other countries! Well done, World Champions!



World Champions... Go for it!

Some people aren't too sure about praying because they don't know what to say, or how to speak to God when they can't see Him.

Have a talk with some people about how they pray. Some people find it easier to pray out loud, or in a certain place, or with others in a group. Some people write their prayers down or make up songs to God as prayers. God made us all different, and He hears our prayers, no matter how we pray them! So what do you pray about? Make sure you read what Jesus told his disciples in this month's Bible reading. You can also use the word 'PRAY' to help you think about what to pray:

P - Praise God! Tell Him how wonderful He is!

R - Repent. Tell God about the things you've thought or done that you know are wrong. Ask His forgiveness and help for you to change.

A - Ask for others. Do you know people who need to know more about God's love? Maybe you know somebody who is having a difficult time. This is also a great time to pray for countries like Afghanistan.

Y - Yourself. Talk to God about your life - what you are going through, where you need help, and so on.



'World Champions' is made by OM New Zealand, where we want people of all ages to be a part of the wonderful things God is doing around the world. Why not contact us and see how else you can get involved?

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