

World Champions

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

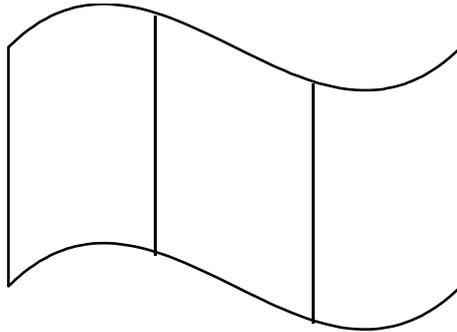
Country focus: Ireland

Topic: Being peace-makers

Ireland is a beautiful country in Europe, with about the same sized population as New Zealand. In fact, it's similar to here in many ways—people speak English and go to schools a lot like ours. Ireland is also an island and very green. People call it the Emerald Isle.

There has been a lot of trouble in Ireland though. There has been religious fighting in the past that still happens in some places, and in many areas there are now fights between Irish people and immigrants from other countries. Sometimes children get involved in this as well.

Ireland needs World Champions like you to help be peace-makers!



Colour in Ireland's flag — green, white and orange.

Bible reading:

Read these verses about being peace-makers:

Matthew 5:9

Romans 12:18

Romans 14:17-19

Romans 15:5

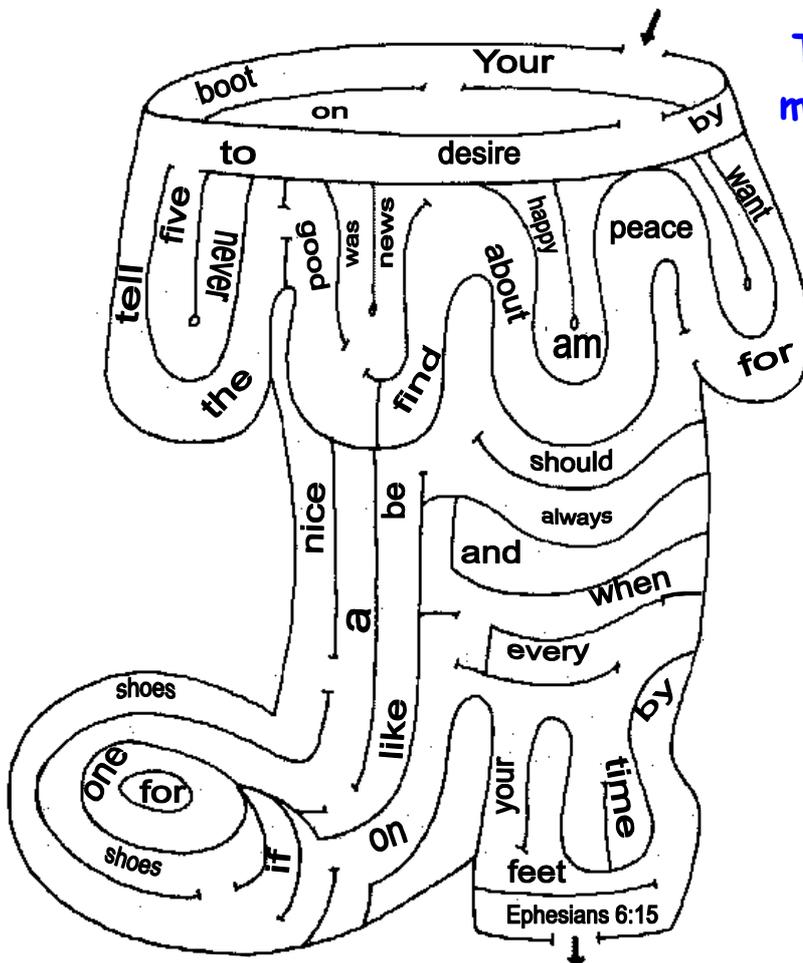
James 3:18

Read about a child who is the Prince of Peace in **Isaiah 9:6**.

Who do you think this prophesy is about?



This month's memory verse



(CEV translation)

What does the memory verse have to do with a shoe? Well, you'll have to complete the maze to find out! Write down all the words you have to go through to complete the maze. Write them in the spaces below:

Remember this verse every time you put your shoes on!



Ever heard of Saint Patrick's Day?



In Ireland, Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday, and is celebrated each year on March 17th. Saint Patrick was the first missionary to go to Ireland to tell people there about God, about 400 years after Jesus was on earth.

Use the pictures to read his story:



was born in 389 in Scotland. When he was XVI he was

kidnapped by  and taken to  where he worked as a

taking care of . During this time he remembered what his

had taught him about God's . He became a Christian. When 

was XXII he  away and went .

Later, he went back to . He told  about .  started 100s of 

and many schools. Many  in  became Christians because of

God working through .

The Big Red Bus — World Champions in Ireland!

OM has a team of people working in Ireland. They travel around the country in a big double-decker red bus that they use to tell children about Jesus in a fun way.

One time the bus drove to a poorer area . Soon it was full of excited children. There were Bible stories upstairs and crafts downstairs, as well as games and face painting outside. One parent told the team that when the bus came it was one of the rare times during the year when the children were not fighting with one another. Another parent said "there is such a peace here and the children are so well behaved as they listen to your stories."



Children and their parents visiting the Big Red Bus

One team member talked with Dean who was 10. "He did not realise he was special and that Jesus loved him. I had a lovely time with him and his mum."

The Big Red Bus also took part in a traditional St Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. Decorated with shamrocks and accompanied by colourful clowns, the bus drove through the crowded main street as part of the parade.

Afterwards, the bus parked close to a play area and opened its doors to families who lived nearby. All afternoon, families came on board to look around, and wanted to know when it would be coming back to their town again.



Saint Patrick used to use a shamrock to explain about God. The shamrock has three leaves on each stem. Saint Patrick told the people that the shamrock was like the idea of the Trinity - that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Connect the numbers to find out what a shamrock looks like. Then colour it in green.



World Champions... Pray!

Please pray for the children in Ireland.

Pray that they will learn to be peace-makers at

school and at home, even though their country sometimes is not peaceful.

Pray especially that children in Ireland will come to know and love Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace!

Pray for the Big Red Bus as it travels around Ireland. Thank God for all the children that come aboard and enjoy hearing about Jesus. Pray that many more will in the future.

Also pray that God will help you to be a peace-maker and that your desire to tell people the good news about peace will be like shoes on your feet.

Here's a fun way to remember to pray this month:

Take some paper and draw a shamrock onto it. (Or you could trace the shamrock you drew with connect-the-dots.) Write a prayer item on the paper and colour it in green. Stick it up somewhere in your room or around the house (if you're allowed to!) You could make as many prayer shamrocks as you like, each with a different prayer item on them. Remember to pray when you see them!



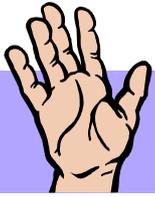
World Champions... Give!

Do you want to help the Big Red Bus travel around Ireland, telling children about Jesus?

You can by giving! They need money for things like petrol, face-paints, crafts and games. If you would like to save a bit of money for them, send it to us and we'll make sure they get it.

Here's an idea on how you and your family could save for Ireland:

Make a money box out of an old cereal box or margarine container. Decorate it with shamrocks or by making it look like a big red bus. Every time you see people fighting, either at school, home or on TV, put a coin in the box. When the box is full, you will have seen a lot of fighting! The coins you saved can then be used to help bring peace to the children of Ireland with the Big Red Bus.



World Champions... Go for it!



You can be a peace-maker in your own home and school. How many times do you see others arguing or fighting? How often are you involved?

You can make the choice to bring peace into the places you go. Start by choosing not to be involved in fights yourself. Help your friends sort out disagreements in a kind way. And when you get a chance, let people know about the Prince of Peace—Jesus, and how He has given us peace with God.



Patricia from Ireland wrote this month's memory verse out in Irish. Can you find it? Colour in all the letters with dots to make it stand out. Can you memorise this verse in both English AND Irish?!

Thanks, Patricia!



'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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