

# World Champions

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



## Country focus: Israel

You probably know more about this Middle-Eastern country than you think! Israel was the home of Jesus and most Bible stories happened there. The Old Testament of the Bible is a Jewish Scripture, and the Jewish people come from Israel.

It is a country with a very long and a very difficult history, with lots of fighting and people being hurt. You may have heard about lots of fighting there on the news recently.

The fighting is not the only problem in Israel though. Most people there don't know that God loves them and that Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for their sins. Some people are still waiting for someone like Jesus to come, and other people are turning to other religions or don't believe in God at all. Israel really need World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Topic: *God hears our prayers*

### Bible reading:

Long ago, David was a king of Israel who wrote many songs to God. In this song you can see how God heard his prayers when he was in trouble.

**Psalm 40**



### This month's memory verse:

Hebrew is the official language spoken in Israel, and it is written from right to left. Can you use the code to decipher the Hebrew letters from right to left to figure out this month's memory verse?

### Did you know:



Israel's flag is white with dark blue stripes and star. The star is called the 'Star of David', named after King David. One of the meanings of the star is that God rules the whole world. The six points stand for North, South, East, West, up and down, and when Jews see them, they are reminded that God is in control of everything. We can know that He hears our prayers, no matter what situation we are in!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
נ	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	יא	יב	יג	יד	טו	טז	יז

ט נעאש פן שוץ, לועד!  
שוץ אעה מש נלאגה ות פאתהפש.  
נפאלם 5:241

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(CEV Translation)

## Meet Amy\* and Charlie\*, World Champions in Israel:

Amy and Charlie used to live with their family in Israel, where they tried to show people about God's love for them. Read what they think about living in Israel in letters they sent us shortly before they left:

Dear World Champions,

In Israel it is hot and dry in summer, and cold and wet in winter. In NZ it is the same in summer as in winter (as far as I can remember).

I have only lived in towns in NZ but moving here was a shock. There were a lot of explosions and fireworks, but it was just an Arab Feast.

We live in a Christian Arab area of Haifa. Here fruit is huge, glass is smashed on the path and there is the intifada war. NZ is cleaner and has small fruit.

Read Genesis 15:5

Home

A place

It's a city

For ships

Arabs and Jews live here

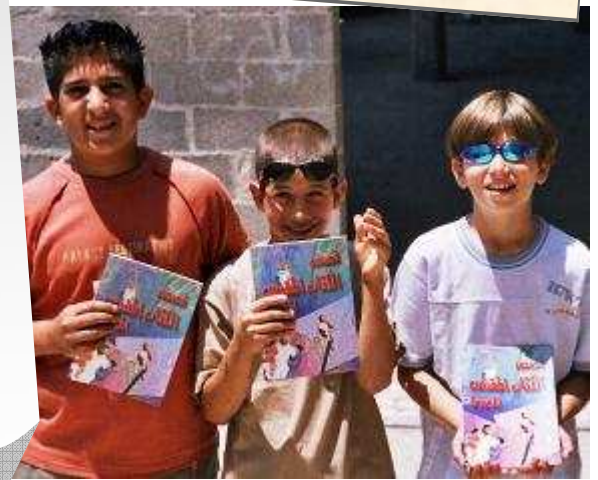
From Amy, age 9

Dear everyone,

My favourite thing about Israel is travelling to interesting places, like Jerusalem.

In two weeks I am going to stay in a Bedouin tent in the desert. We will eat flat bread with goats cheese, and drink sweet tea out of little glasses. I might be able to ride a camel.

Charlie, age 7



*Children in Israel with Christian books they were given.*

Israel is often in the news because of fighting.

There is sometimes fighting in Haifa, where Amy and Charlie lived. Every time they heard bangs or a siren, they had to drop everything and run to their bomb shelter, where they waited with about 20 others. It was crowded, but they were safe this way. Amy and Charlie enjoyed playing with other children in the shelter, and they had plenty of games and chocolate biscuits to keep them happy.

But as the situation got worse, they went to a safer city with their family, and when things got really bad, they and their family had to leave Israel to go somewhere safer. Please pray for God to keep people in Israel safe and not too afraid when there is fighting.

*\*Sorry to mislead you - Amy and Charlie are real people, but those are not their real names. We don't want to give them out, because that's a bit safer for them.*



## World Champions... Pray!

This man is praying at a special wall in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. It's called the Western Wall but is also known as the Wailing Wall. This wall is the last wall standing from the Temple that was destroyed shortly after Jesus went up to heaven.

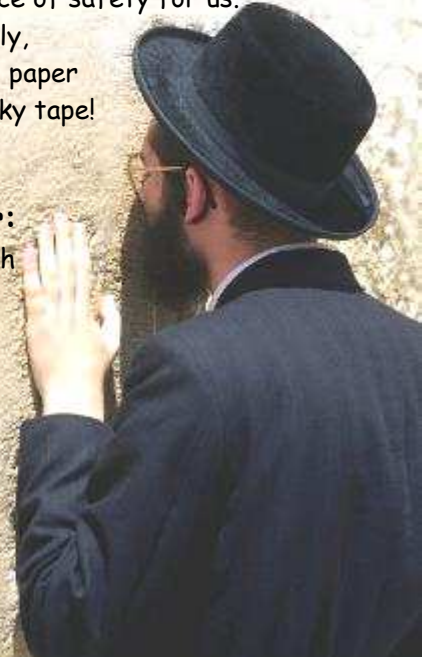
Jews all over the world build their temples facing west, so that they can pray towards the Western Wall. People who visit the Western Wall write prayers down on a piece of paper and stuff it in one of the many cracks in the wall.

Why not choose one of the walls in your room or home and make your own Western wall? Find out what wall faces the sunset and you'll know which wall faces west.

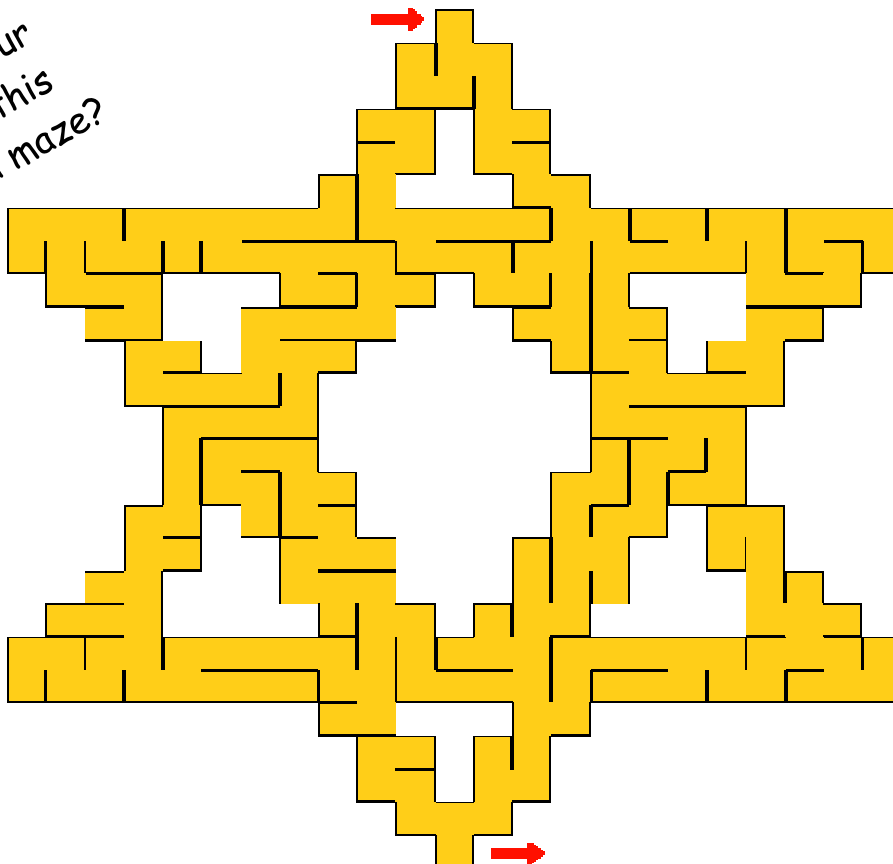
We know that we can pray to God about anything, and that He is like a place of safety for us. Think of prayers you can pray to God. They can be about Israel, your family, other countries, yourself or anything you like! Write them down on bits of paper and stick them on the wall. Just don't ruin the wallpaper or paint with sticky tape! Remember to pray a lot this month, because you know that God will listen!

### Here are some things about Israel that you could pray for:

- Many Jews are waiting and praying for God to send someone to earth to save them. It's very sad that they don't realise that God DID send someone—Jesus, and that He died on the cross for their sins. Pray that they will know this.
- Pray for Amy and Charlie and their family, as well as all the other Christians in Israel who are telling people about Jesus. Just like they are safe in the bomb shelter, pray that they will remember that God is their place of safety, and that they can trust Him for everything.
- Pray for the fighting to stop in Israel and the countries around it.



Can you find your way through this Star of David maze?







## World Champions... Give!

You can also be a World Champion by giving. If you would like to, you can ask an adult to help you send some money to us to send to people like Amy and Charlie's family in Israel. This can help them to keep telling people there about God's love for them.



### Did you know:



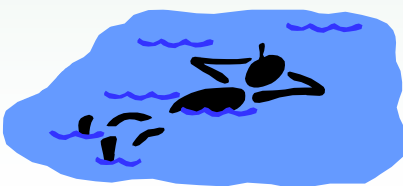
Israel has the highest number of people with university degrees for its population size in the world.

The cell-phone was developed in Israel.



The most popular drink in Israel is Coca Cola.

The Dead Sea, in Israel, is the lowest point on earth. It is 417m below sea level and is so salty that people float on top of the water!



## World Champions... Go for it!

Do you sometimes have difficult times? Sometimes we can feel all alone and that nobody cares or understands how we feel. It's amazing to remember that God not only knows us, but He loves us and wants us to share our feelings with Him when we pray. He hears our prayers, and like the memory verse says, He is like a place of safety for us. We know that God will never forget about us or leave us alone to deal with difficult things.

Amy and Charlie have been in a difficult situation in Israel, but the bomb shelter kept them safe. In the same way, God sometimes lets us have difficult things happen in our lives, but He promises to be with us always. Read what Jesus said in Matthew 28:20.

The reason why Amy and Charlie were in Israel with their family is because they know that God loves them and is with them, but they are sad that other people don't know that themselves. They wanted to share that great news with people they met.

You don't have to go overseas to tell people about God's love! Think of people you know who may not know about God. How could you tell them about Him or show them that He hears your prayer and you are never alone?



'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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