

# World Champions

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



## Country focus: Mexico

Welcome to Mexico! Home to over 107 million people, Mexico is a country of high mountains, tropical forests and barren deserts.

Mexico is famous for big sombrero hats, delicious food and lively music, but is also a place where there is a lot of crime and poor people.

Many people in Mexico believe in God and belong to a church, but they mix in different superstitions and old traditions, and don't really understand that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, and that they can have a relationship with God.

Most people in Mexico speak Spanish, but there are also some smaller tribal groups who speak their own language and live in a similar way to the way their people did many years ago, farming the land for their food each day.

Many of these people have never heard about Jesus before.

People in Mexico really need World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!



**Topic:**  
Telling the world  
about Jesus

## Bible reading:

Before Jesus went up to heaven, he told his disciples to do something. It's something we can still do today. What did he tell them and us to do?

**Matthew 28:16-20**

## aMAIZEing facts about Mexico:

- Sweetcorn, or maize, originally comes from Mexico.
- Over half the area in Mexico where crops are grown is filled with maize!
- Millions of people in Mexico grow maize.
- We get things like Cornflakes and popcorn from maize
- Maize is now grown on every continent except for Antarctica!
- Often the whole family is involved in harvesting maize in Mexico. Some people take their best cobs along to church each harvest to thank God for giving them a good crop of maize.
- Tortillas are made from maize, and are a common food for many Mexicans.

## 'Children of the earth' - the Triquis

The Triquis are a tribe of people in Mexico. They have their own language and culture, and a lot of other Mexicans don't like them. They are also poor.

Triquis are often called 'children of the earth' because they know that their survival depends on how their crops grow to give them food to eat. Every time a Triqui child is born, they let the baby hit the ground with its head to show this dependence on the earth.

As a result, the Triquis live with the idea that they cannot do anything to improve how they live, and many of them are depressed or become alcoholics.

The Triqui people are also very superstitious and practice witchcraft. Very few know about Jesus and his love for them.



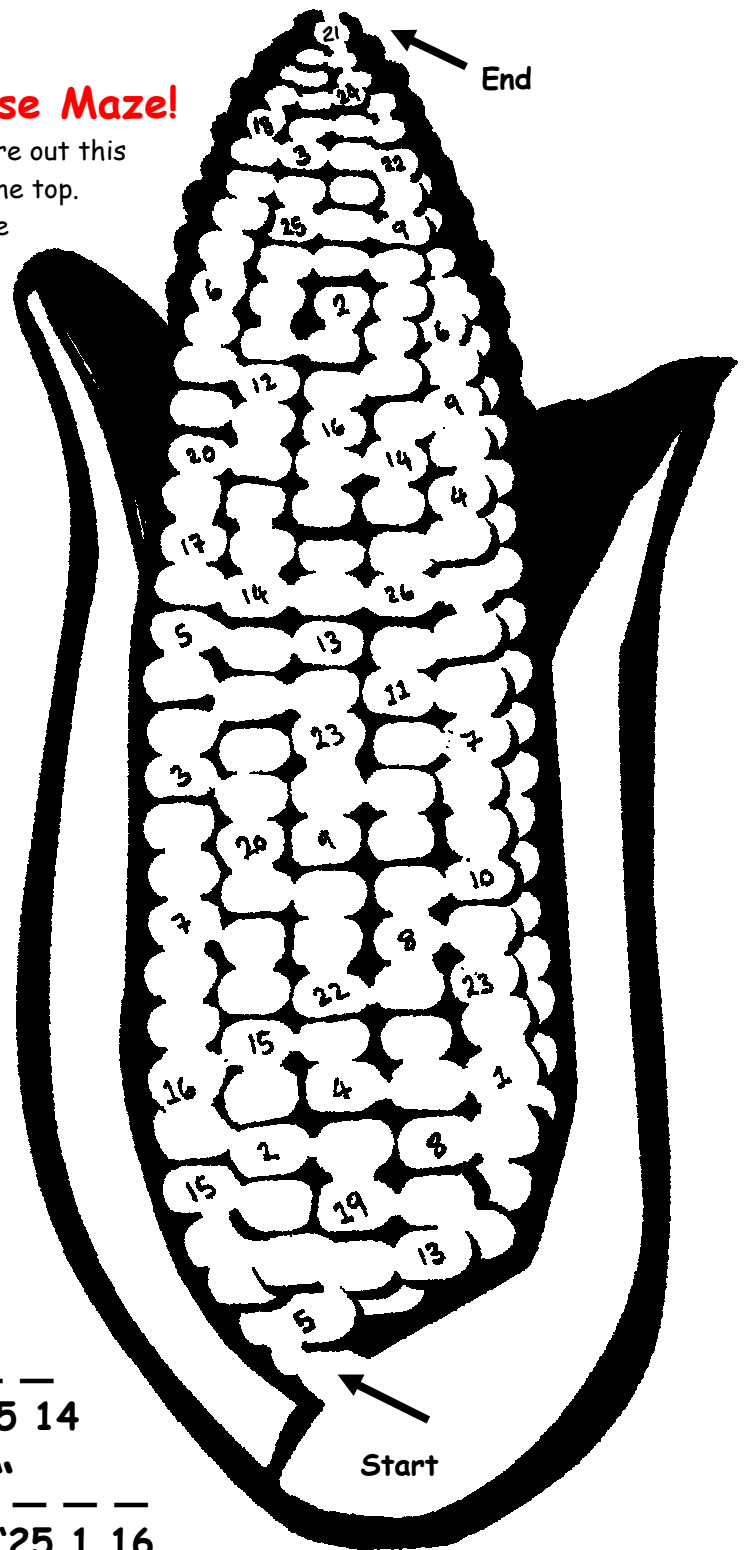
# The Amazing Maize Memory Verse Maze!

You'll need to be a very clever World Champion to figure out this one! Find your way from the bottom of the maize to the top. As you pass a number, write it next to the letter in the code box, from A to Z.

We've done the first one for you.

Be careful though—there are lots of detours with numbers that are not part of the code!

Once you have all the correct numbers for the code, use them to figure out this month's memory verse.



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C		P	
D		Q	
E		R	
F		S	
G		T	
H		U	
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25 1 16 26 1 16 6 5 23 2 25 14

1 23 6 2 23 6 19 23 17 7 16 6, "25 1 16

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25 14 6 16 26 2 3 14 12 10 16 12 6 25 14 1 5 12 22 16 6 25

1 23 6 19 12 14 17 6". 11 5 25 25 1 16 3

9:37-38

## Meet the OM team - World Champions in Mexico:

Over a number of years, people from OM in Mexico have been working with the Triquis. A few years ago, a man called Juan and his family became Christians through the team visiting them. Since then, they have been holding Bible studies and showing people a movie about Jesus, and it is exciting to see more people understanding about God's love for them and putting their trust in Jesus.

Now there are Christian meetings twice a week, and another group is helping with medicine for the Triquis. Part of the Bible has now also been translated into their own language.



### Fun with a Piñata:

Have you ever played with a piñata at a birthday party? They come from Mexico, and started life as clay pots covered in feathers in ancient Aztec ceremonies. Apart from being fun, they were used by missionaries many years ago to teach people about following God! The piñata used to represent Satan, who sometimes disguises himself as something good to trick

people. The treats inside stood for temptations that would cause people to sin.

People need to have faith in Jesus to defeat Satan and sin. That's what the blindfold and stick stood for. God gives people power to fight sin when we trust Jesus, even though we can't see him.

When the piñata was broken and the treats fell out for everyone, that stood for God's blessings and gifts for those who trust Him.

So next time you play with a piñata, remember how it can teach us about God!

**Why not make one and invite some friends to play with it with you?**

Take a blown balloon and papier-mâché over it until it is about 5mm thick.

Leave a hole to put lollies in, then papier-mâché it closed.

When it's dry, paint it colourfully, then hang it up in a tree. Get a blindfold and stick, spin yourself around, and hit away!

**Have fun!**



## World Champions... Pray!

### Imagine this:

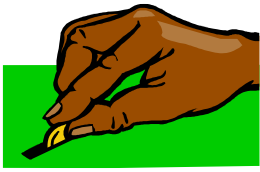
You are a maize farmer in Mexico. You have a large field full of maize, and it's going to be a BIG job to harvest. If maize is not harvested within a certain time, it goes rotten and is no good to anybody. Imagine that the harvest time comes along but nobody is there to help you harvest all the maize! It's a huge job, so this is a huge problem - what would you do?

This is a little bit like what Jesus means in this month's memory verse. He's not talking about maize though. He says that there is a large harvest of people in the world who don't know that they can have a relationship with God because of Jesus. Unfortunately, there are not many workers to bring in this harvest, meaning not many Christians who are prepared to tell people around the world about Jesus. What does Jesus ask us to do in this verse?

Pray to God to make more Christians want to go around the world to 'harvest his crops.'

So this month, try to spend some time every day praying for more Christians to tell others about Jesus, in Mexico, in New Zealand and around the world!





## 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 the

OM team working with Triquis in Mexico. Another way to help people around the world hear about Jesus is to give some money to your church or Sunday School offering. They will use this money to tell people about Jesus in New Zealand and around the world.

Do you know anyone who tells others about Jesus? What could you give them to encourage and help them continue their work in God's harvest field?



## World Champions... Go for it!

Do you think you could be a harvester in God's field by telling other people about Jesus?

Maybe one day you could be a missionary and go to parts of the world where a lot of people haven't heard about Jesus. But that doesn't stop you from doing something now.

In your school and your neighbourhood are children and adults who need to know about Jesus just as much as people on the other side of the world!

How are some ways you could tell them? You could invite them to Sunday School or a Christian club. You could tell them Bible stories. One of the best things to do is to tell them what Jesus means to you in your own life. And remember to pray for them.

## The Story behind the Mexican flag:



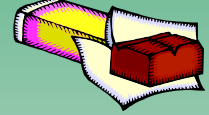
The picture in the middle of the Mexican flag symbolises an Aztec legend. The Aztecs were the first people in Mexico and they believed that they would build their city when they saw an eagle eating a snake on a cactus. They saw one and built what is now Mexico city there! Look carefully at the flag. Can you see the eagle eating the snake?

## Did you know:

Mexico City is one of the three largest cities in the world.

Mexico city was built on a lake. Every year, it sinks about 25cm, because the water underground is being piped out and used by the people to drink!

Chocolate was first made in Mexico!



Mexican children are given both their father's last name and their mother's maiden name. This tradition helps preserve the heritage of both parents. What would your name be if you lived in Mexico?

Hello = Hola

Good Morning = Buenos dias

Good afternoon = Buenos tardes

Good night = Buenos noches

Good bye = adios

Welcome = bienvenidos

Nice to meet you = mucho gusto

People speak Spanish in Mexico. Can you learn these simple phrases?



'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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