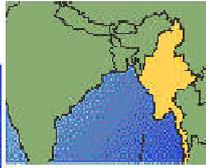


World Champions

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



Country focus: Myanmar

Myanmar, which used to be called Burma, is a country of about 43 million people in Asia. About 9 out of every 10 people in Myanmar are Buddhists but there are a few Christians and Muslims there as well.

Do you remember the elections that were held here in New Zealand last month? Well, people in Myanmar don't have elections. They are not able to vote for who they want to run their country. The army chooses leaders that they think will be the best.

Unfortunately, this stops a lot of people from having freedom to choose things for themselves. This includes Christians. Since 2001, more than 80 churches around the capital city have been closed down by the government. No new churches have been allowed to be built since 1994 and people need a special permit to be allowed to meet together in church. Some Christian children have been taken away from their families and been trained to be Buddhist monks. Others have had their Bibles taken away from them. We know of one village of Christians who were all forced to work on Christmas day so they couldn't celebrate it together. Myanmar really needs World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Topic:
Help others

Bible reading:

This slave girl helped her sick master by telling him about a prophet who could help him.

2 Kings 5:1-14



This month's memory verse:

People in Myanmar speak Burmese. It is spoken and written VERY differently to English!
Can you decipher these Burmese letters to figure out this month's memory verse?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
အ	ဘ	င	စ	ဆ	ဇ	ည	တ	ထ	ဒ်	န	ဋ	ဍ
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
န	ဗ	ဖ	သ	ရ	ဆ	ထ	ဥ	ဉ	ဝ	၂	ယ	ဇ

ငဟထုဋ်ဇရဇန, ယဗဥ ဆဟဗဝ ဉဗညဇ ဇ်ဗရ ဗထဟဇရဆ ဘယ

ထရဥဋ်ယ ဟဇဋ်ဖထုနယ ထဟဇမ, အနဇ နဗထ

မဇရဇဋ်ယ ဘယ ထအဋ်ဇထုနယ အဘဗဥထ ထထထ.

1 ဤဗဟန **3:18** (CEV translation)

These boys are training to be Buddhist monks in Myanmar.



Why does Burmese writing look so Curly-wurly?

Burmese writing was developed before paper was invented. All writing was scratched onto palm leaves with a sharp pointed stick. Some experts believe that a straight line would immediately cut through between the ribs of the leaf, so curly writing was developed instead!

World Champions in Myanmar – the Doulos:

Our book-ship, Doulos, has visited Myanmar a few times. A crew member remembers meeting people who had walked for two days to get to the ship so they could buy a Bible. (It's difficult to get Bibles in shops in Myanmar.) However, when they arrived they realised that they didn't have enough money to buy it. They only got paid a few cents a day for their work.

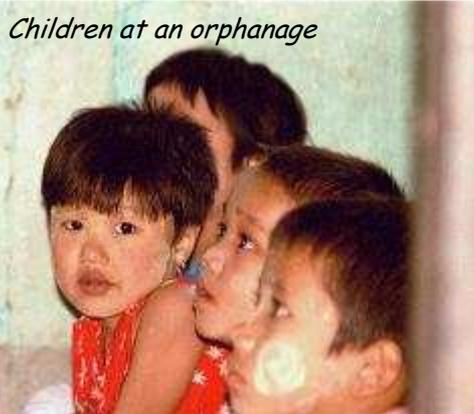
What do you think the crew member did to help them?

People from the Doulos also helped people working in an orphanage. They helped with building and planting vegetables for the children to eat, giving away toys, books, soap and toothbrushes, as well as playing with the children and sharing God's love with them.



A man praying at a Buddhist temple in Myanmar. Some of the temple is covered in real gold!

Children at an orphanage



World Champions in Myanmar – OM teams:

Now we also have a team of people working in Myanmar. They go to orphanages and also teach English to older children. Read what an orphanage is like from this team member's diary:

"I went to an orphanage today. It houses not just children, but adults, too. It is one of the better orphanages, because the women sleep in bunk beds in one room and the men in the other. But there are no mattresses and only one toilet; people have few or no personal possessions, and no personal space. The younger ones live three minutes' baking hot walk away. They also have bunk beds; in tiny little shacks. These shacks have

a wall at the back made of woven wood stuff, and the other three walls are about waist high. One of these half-height walls acts as a door. Three of these shacks accommodate all the children. In the area between buildings, there is an open well, a massive hole in the ground, and a big urn, where rice is cooked over an open fire. There is also a big table, where people cut up fruit or vegetables with big sharp knives."

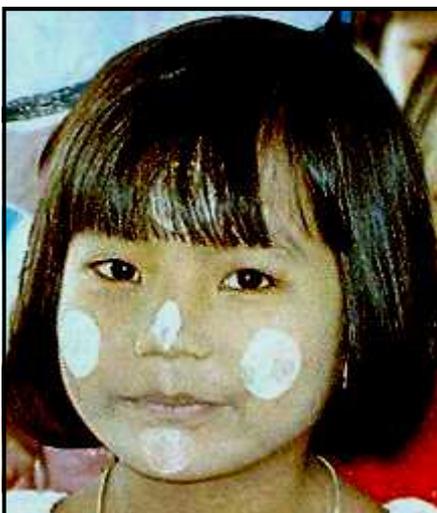
How do you think you would feel seeing these children? How could you help them?



How to look cool in Myanmar!

If you go to Myanmar, you will see a lot of women and almost all the children, boys and girls, wearing cream coloured face paint in circles, stripes and other shapes all over their faces! This face paint is called Thanakha paste and it is made by mixing the bark of a tree with water. People wear Thanakha paste for two reasons. One is to look great, and the other is to protect their skin from the sun, just like sun-block!

Why don't you dress like a Burmese child one day? Use face paint to put patterns all over your face.



Also, remember the sun-block on sunny days!

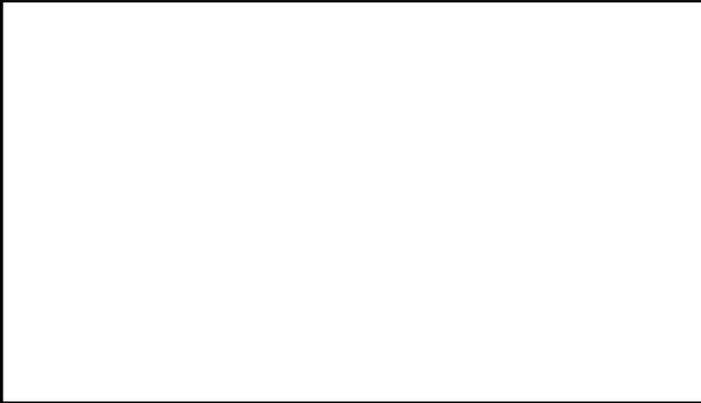
Try some different Thanakha paste patterns on this girl's face now!

Colour in her skin and leave the face-paint areas white. Or colour them in white or yellow.



Can you draw Myanmar's flag?

This is a **VERY** tricky task! Follow these instructions carefully to draw Myanmar's flag in the rectangle here:



1. Draw a rectangle in the top left corner of the flag. It should take half the height of the flag and a bit less than half the width. (You should only draw 2 lines—it shares the top and left sides of the flag.)
2. Draw a circle in the middle of your rectangle.
3. Draw 14 small dents like square bite-marks around the outside of the circle to make it look like a cog.
4. Draw 14 five-pointed stars around the circle.
5. Now draw a smaller circle in the middle of the first circle.
6. Inside the big circle and covering most of the smaller one, draw a stalk of rice growing. It looks like wheat or a stalk with corn on the cob on it.

7. Colour the main part of the flag red. The smaller rectangle is navy blue. Leave the stars, big circle and the stalk of rice white, and colour in the rest of the little circle navy blue as well.

Now check the newsletter page on our *World Champions* website to see how close to the real thing you were!



Superstition in Myanmar:

Many people in Myanmar are very superstitious. They do special things and avoid others because they are scared of getting bad luck. It is very sad that so few people in Myanmar know how much God loves them and that when we follow Him, we don't need to be afraid of anything.

Here are some strange superstitions that people in Myanmar have:

- Don't go under a pole or rope, where women used to hang-dry their skirts.
- Don't leave a shoe or a slipper upside-down.
- Don't wash your hair within a week after a funeral in the neighbourhood.
- Don't hit the pot with a ladle after you stir the curry. It's like hitting your parent's head.
- Don't hit 2 lids of pots and pans against each other. A tiger may bite you.
- Don't show the palm of your hand when you serve food.
- Don't clip your nails at night.
- Don't take kids to dark places.
- Carrying some hairs of an elephant tail will avoid trouble.



World Champions... Pray!

You can be a World Champion by praying for the people in Myanmar.

- Pray that the many people in Myanmar who are afraid of the army or have many superstitions. Pray that they will find out how much God loves them.
- Pray for the orphans in Myanmar, that they will be safe and feel loved. Pray that they can learn things and know that they are God's children, even though they have no parents.
- Thank God for the Christians who are in Myanmar.
- Pray that God will keep Christians in Myanmar safe as they share His love with others.

How can you remember to pray for Myanmar this month?

Why not make something to remind you? You may want to use curly Burmese-style writing in whatever you do!

Did you know...

"Hello" in Burmese is "mingalar par".

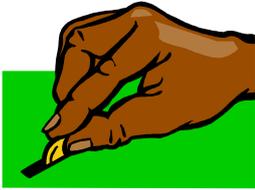
Some fisherman in Myanmar row themselves around lakes by standing and holding the oar with one leg!

Myanmar is home to 135 different cultures, each with its own way of speaking and traditional dress.

Myanmar produces some of the world's best rubies, jade and sapphires.



People in Myanmar are very helpful to others. They leave pots of water under trees along roads, so that thirsty travellers can have a fresh drink wherever they go!



World Champions... Give!

Would you like to help the OM teams working with children in Myanmar? Maybe you'd like to save some money up for them. Send it to us, telling us what it's for, and we will send it to the people there straight away!



Here's an idea for getting some money for Myanmar. You will need to get an adult to help you.

- Buy some face paint. (We've seen some for sale in the \$2 shop.)
- Set up a face-painting stall for your friends. Either you can paint their face, or get someone arty to help you. Or they may want to paint their own. Tell people about children in Myanmar as you paint their faces.
- Everyone who gets their face painted pays you—you can decide how much. Maybe 50c or \$1.
- Collect the money and ask an adult to help you send it in to us so we can pass it on to our people in Myanmar!



World Champions... Go for it!

You can be a World Champion right here and show God's love to people by helping them. Even small things can help people a lot. We can all learn from the people in Myanmar who help strangers by leaving water outside for them.

This month's memory verse also reminds us to not just talk or think about helping people, but to GO FOR IT!

Think about someone you can help from each of these groups. Write one way you think you can help them this month.

Someone in my family: _____.

Someone from my school: _____.

An older person: _____.

A younger person: _____.

Remember to look out for opportunities to show people God's love by helping them this month, and GO FOR IT!



'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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