

World Champions

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



Country focus: Russia **Topic: God changes our lives**

Get ready to think BIG! Russia is the biggest country in the world, and has the tenth biggest population, with over 143 million people! That's more than the population of New Zealand x 35!

Russia has had many changes in the last few years. About 1000 years ago, Russia was known as a Christian country, and most people went to church. But nearly 100 years ago, a new group took over power in the country. Russia was turned into a Communist country and people were taught that there is no God. Churches were burned, closed down or turned into stables for animals. People couldn't have Bibles and some people who continued to worship God together in secret were put into prison and hurt.

One great change happened in 1985, when a new leader of Russia allowed people to worship God again. Now people are allowed to have a Bible and go to church any time. Because people in Russia were taught that God doesn't exist for so long, many still don't know about God's love, and how Jesus came to earth to change our lives. Russia really needs World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Bible reading:

Saul was a very bad man! Read about how God changed his life, and changed him into Paul, who wrote 13 books of the Bible!

Acts 7:57-8:3

Acts 9:1-30



This month's memory verse:

Can you change the Russian letters to figure out what the verse says?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
д	й	ж	з	ё	ф	щ	ч	ъ	ћ	ќ	ї	л
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
и	б	ль	ђ	я	э	њ	ц	п	ш	х	ў	ю

ёдждч бф ўбц ъэ ибш д иёш льяэяэби.

ўбц дяё йёжблџищ лбяё диз лбяё їќё

ўбця жяёдњбя, диз ўбц шїї цизёяэњдиз

чъл йёњњёя. жбібээъдиз 3:10

(CEV translation)



Meet Timofei - A World Champion 'Secret Angel' in Russia:

We have many people working with OM teams in Russia, sharing God's love with the people there. One thing we love to do is run children's camps in the summer time, where kids can have fun with others and learn about Jesus at the same time.

Timofei is 11 and he came to a camp one July recently. He often gave the leaders and other children trouble. But God changes our lives, and He was changing Timofei's life too.

During the camp, the leaders and children played a game called 'Secret Angel'. Each person had to take a name out of a bag and give a secret present to that person. When Timofei took a name from the bag, he got his own, so he knew he wouldn't have a secret angel. One of the leaders decided to make him a special present as a surprise, and he was so thankful and excited when he got it!

Later on, Timofei gave a secret present to another girl who didn't get one! The camp leaders thought it was very special to see him being so kind and generous to someone else after being such a trouble-maker. God was changing Timofei's life and he is now like a new person!



Timofei, on the left, and another boy doing a drama for the children in the camp.

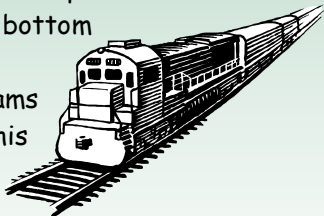


Did you know...

Instead of a Birthday Cake, many Russian children are given a Birthday Pie! And forget icing—Russian Birthday Pies have the message carved into the pie crust!



The longest possible journey on one train can be taken between Moscow and Vladivostok in Russia, on the Trans-Siberian Express. The journey is 9,297 kilometres long! That's like travelling all the way from the top of New Zealand to the bottom SIX times! OM teams travel on this train, and use the time to share the good news about God's love with others on board!



The Roller Coaster was invented in the 17th century in Russia.



World Champions... Pray!

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

- Thank God that people can now be free to worship Him, go to church and read the Bible.
- Thank God for the camps for children that OM runs in Russia and for the many children like Timofei who learn about God's love at these camps.
- Many people in Russia don't know about God's love. Pray that they will meet Christians who will tell them.
- Pray that God will keep changing your life to become more like Him and understand Him better.



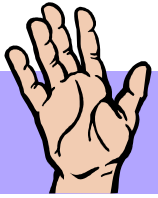
World Champions... Give!

Would you like to help the OM teams working with children in Russia? 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!



Two boys from one of the children's camps in Russia.



World Champions... Go for it!

God changes our lives. He works in our thoughts and actions to help us become more like Jesus in what we say and do. It is like we become new people!

In the Bible, Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in our lives. This all happens as we grow as Christians, learning more about God and loving Him more. So how do we do that?

To find out how you can grow as a Christian, find all the words in the Word-find. Then find the left-over letters going from the top left of the word-find. They will make a sentence when you put them together at the bottom. The sentence will give you some ideas on how you can grow as a Christian so God will continue to change your life to be more like Jesus in what you say and do!

Word List:

These words are from the verses in Galatians 5:22-23. God makes these things show in our lives as He changes us:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

The next words to find are all the names of books in the Bible that Paul wrote. Do you remember from the Bible reading how God changed his life?

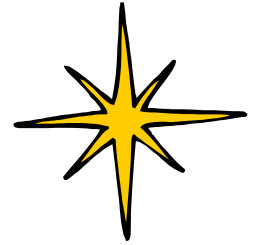
- Romans
- (1&2) Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- (1&2) Thessalonians
- (1&2) Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

F	P	Y	S	S	G	E	Y	T	T	O	R	K	N	O	W	G
A	G	H	O	N	E	O	D	H	M	O	R	O	E	B	E	Y
I	R	E	I	J	A	L	A	D	T	I	N	C	M	N	G	S
T	O	M	E	L	O	I	F	F	T	O	O	H	T	A	E	B
H	I	B	L	E	I	E	N	C	V	L	M	L	E	R	N	Y
F	D	G	A	Y	P	P	R	O	O	A	E	I	Y	I	N	S
U	G	A	A	N	D	L	P	S	L	N	T	I	T	U	S	E
L	A	R	N	L	I	N	S	I	E	A	T	G	F	R	O	M
N	O	T	H	E	A	I	R	S	A	C	S	R	H	R	I	S
E	T	I	A	N	A	T	S	S	U	N	V	S	O	I	Y	P
S	Z	U	F	N	I	D	I	O	I	F	S	S	E	L	G	E
S	V	Y	S	J	B	T	F	A	N	E	E	E	C	H	S	A
E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S	N	B	E	N	P	L	T	C
P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E	F	Z	S	K	D	X	O	H	E
W	S	N	A	I	H	T	N	I	R	O	C	N	W	V	N	S
S	S	E	N	D	O	O	G	D	T	D	I	I	C	E	Q	G
N	O	M	E	L	I	H	P	V	L	C	P	K	X	A	E	G

Now you know what to do. Go for it! When God changes your life, how will your actions to other people change?

Christmas in Russia

People in Russia celebrate Christmas VERY differently to us in New Zealand. Christmas is at winter time, and the temperature is usually below freezing then! When people weren't allowed to worship God, Christmas was replaced with the Festival of Winter, but now many people celebrate Christmas again.



In the traditional Russian Christmas, special prayers are said and people go without eating any food from animals, including cheese and milk, from November until January 6th - the Russian Christmas Eve. Then the feasting begins! They have a twelve course supper in honour of each of the twelve apostles.

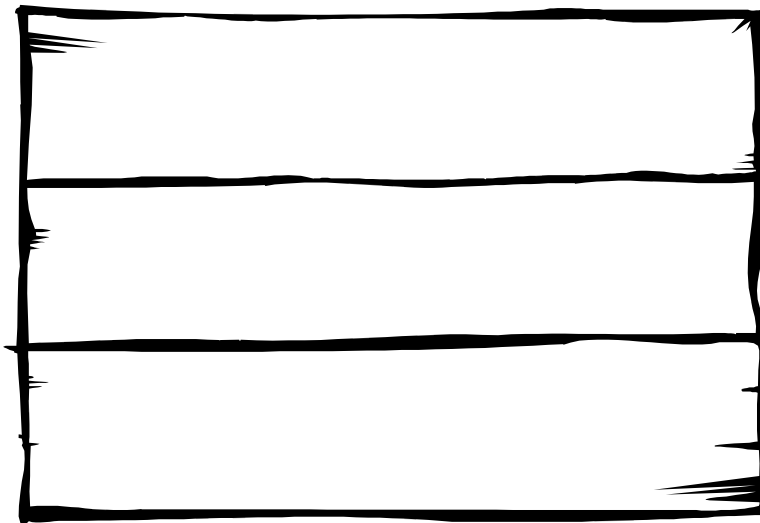


People spread hay on the floors and tables to encourage horse feed to grow in the coming year and they make clucking noises to encourage their hens to lay eggs! January 7 is Christmas Day in Russia. People go to decorated churches and sing hymns and carols to celebrate Jesus' birth. Christmas is celebrated over six exciting days. Wouldn't that be great?!



Colour in Russia's flag.

The top strip stays white. The middle one is blue, and red is on the bottom.



'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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