

World Champions

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

Country focus: Sri Lanka

Topic: Trust and Worship God!

Sri Lanka is an island country shaped like a teardrop, which is close to the South-East coast of India. About 20 million people live there. 72% of the population are Buddhists, and there are also a lot of Hindus and Muslims. Over a million Christians live in Sri Lanka.

There has been a lot of fighting between two people groups that live in Sri Lanka – Sinhalese and Tamil, which has made life tough for Sri Lankans.

The big tsunami that came in December 2004 hit Sri Lanka, and many people were killed. Today, all is peaceful, but for those who lost homes and loved ones, life will never be the same. Many people still have no homes. Life in a shelter is difficult - space is limited and often only a piece of cloth divides households from each other. There are lots of fights and many people are finding it difficult to get back to normal life.

With all these problems in Sri Lanka, it is hard for Christians to trust God, worship Him, and let others know how much He loves them.

Sri Lanka needs World Champions!

Bible reading:

This woman and her son were VERY poor, but they trusted God and shared the last of their food with Elijah. Read about what happened.

1 Kings 17:8-16

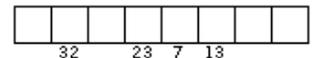
A few days later, the woman and Elijah had to trust God again in a big way!

1 Kings 17:17-24

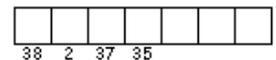


Solve the puzzle and use the answers to fill in the memory verse!

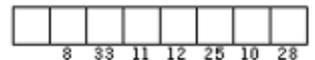
Most of this large mammal in Sri Lanka have no tusks. NEEPATHL



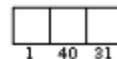
This is a very popular sport in Sri Lanka. TIECCRK



The shape of Sri Lanka looks like this. TDRERPAO



Sri Lanka is the 2nd largest producer of this drink in the world. ETA



SAMUTNI

On December 26 2004, this hit Sri Lanka.

UDTIBHDS

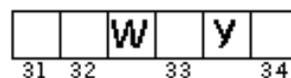
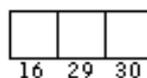
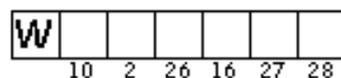
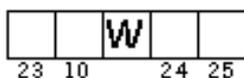
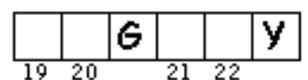
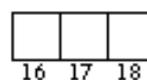
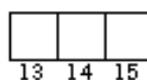
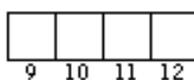
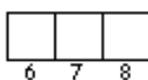
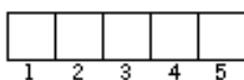
Most Sri Lankans follow this religion.

LINESAESH

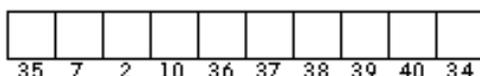
One group of people in Sri Lanka.

MALTI

Another group of people in Sri Lanka.



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(CEV translation)

Grant* — A World Champion in Sri Lanka!

There are many organisations that work in Sri Lanka to help people who were affected by the tsunami. Grant is in charge of one team.

Straight after the tsunami, the main thing was to make sure people had food and shelter. The team gave out 2000 family food relief packs, full of rice, dhal, sugar, tea and coffee. They also worked on cleaning out wells. So much salt water from the sea had gone into them that people couldn't get fresh water from them.



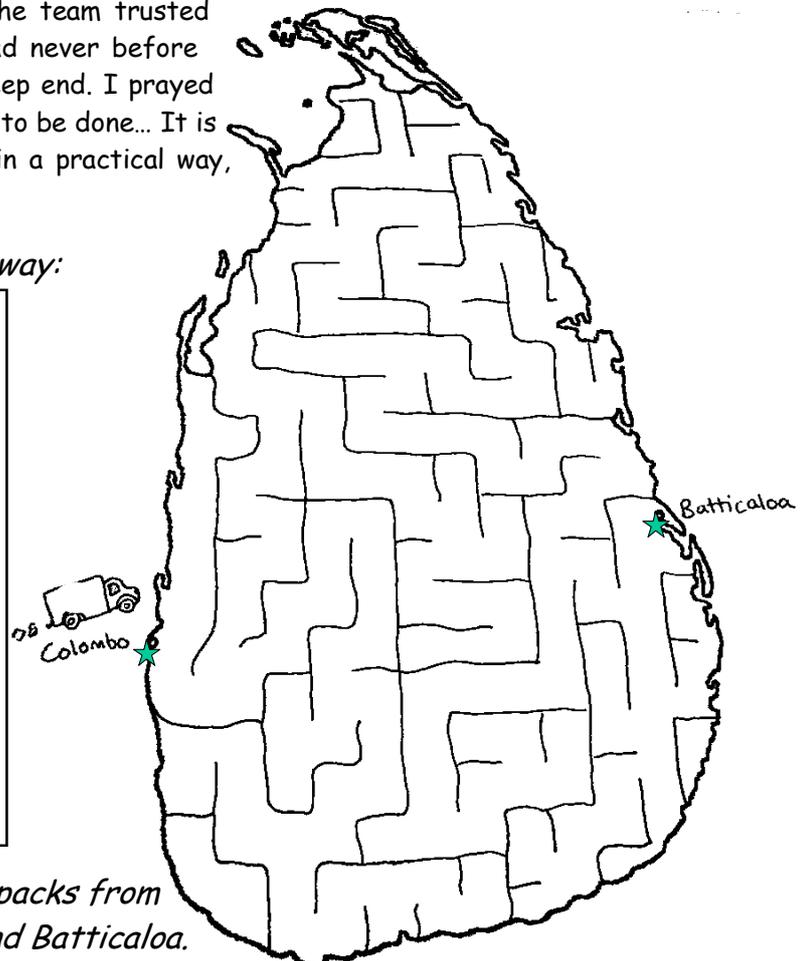
People whose homes got destroyed by the tsunami went to live in school buildings, but because schools have started again, they had to move. It took a long time to get new land to build houses on, so the team worked with other people to set up temporary huts for people to live in while they wait. Hundreds of huts were made with a metal frame, corrugated iron roof and canvas walls and floors.

In the weeks after the tsunami, the team gave out about 3000 packs to people who lost their things. In each pack was a kerosene cooker and cooking utensils, kerosene lantern, towels and sheets.

They also helped children in schools. Most of the school buildings were still standing, but some classes were meeting under trees or canvas. Grant and his team gave out school packs in 14 areas around Batticaloa. Each pack has 6 sets of text books for all ages, exercise books, pens, rulers and colouring pens.

Grant was nervous about his big job, but he and the team trusted God to help them know what to do. He says, "I had never before done relief work and was really thrown in at the deep end. I prayed together with others, then I set out to do what was to be done... It is a great blessing being able to touch people's lives in a practical way, where there is a need."

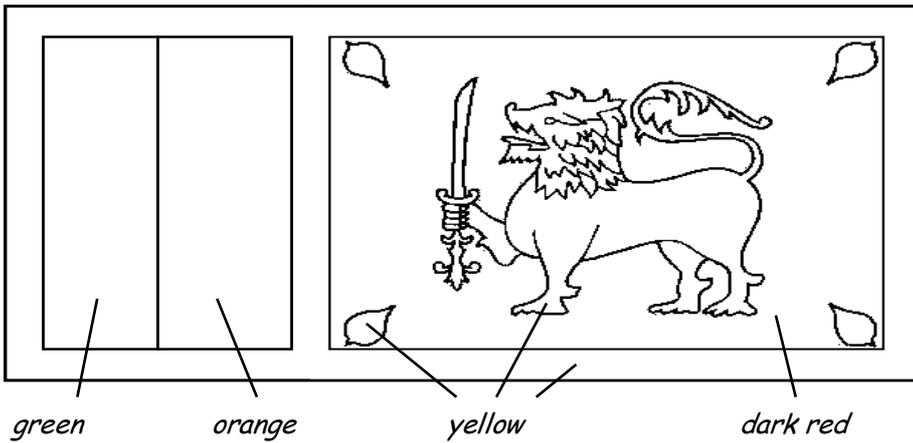
Draw the contents of one pack Grant gave away:



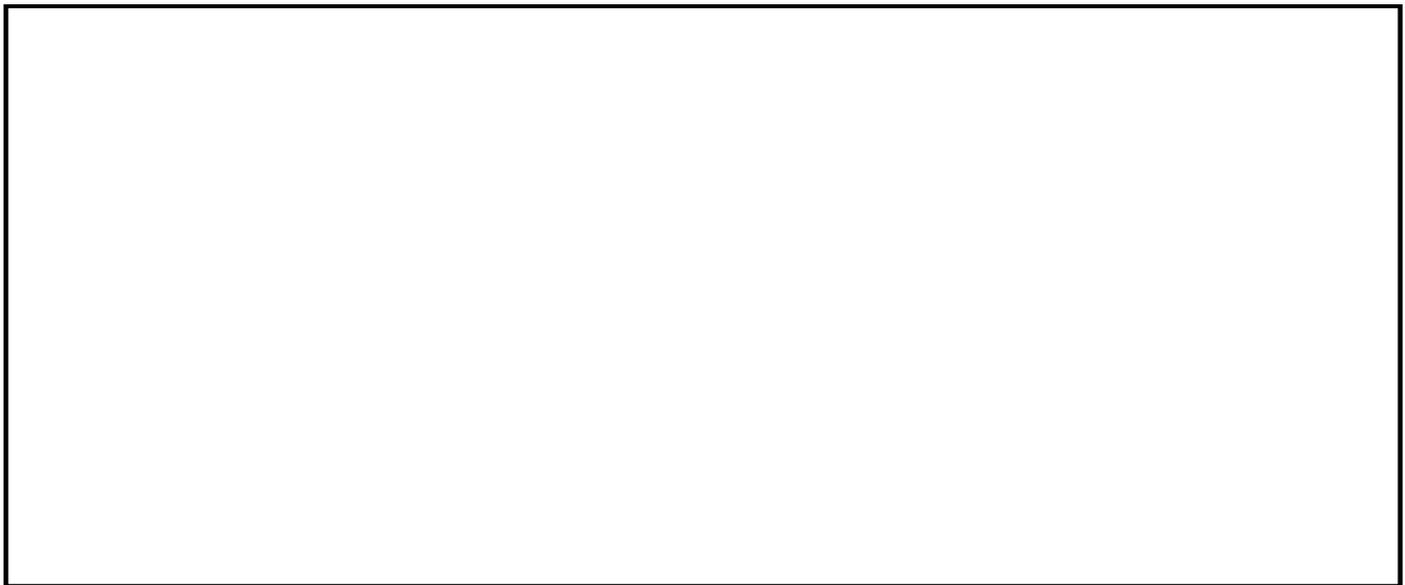
Help Grant and the team get the school packs from the capital city, Colombo, to schools around Batticaloa.

** Grant is not his real name, but it's safer for us to say Grant instead.*

Can you copy and colour in Sri Lanka's complicated flag? Try in the box below.



Did you know...
There is a temple in Sri Lanka dedicated to the tooth of Buddha. The name of the temple is "Temple of the Tooth."



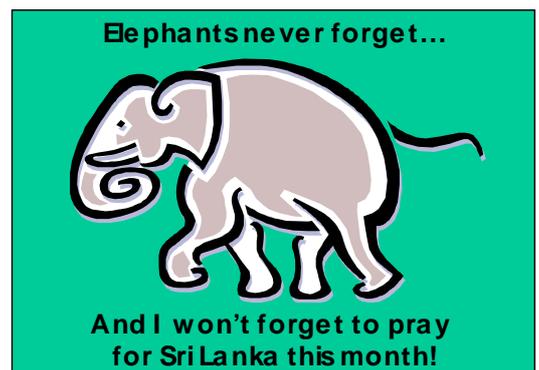
World Champions... Pray!

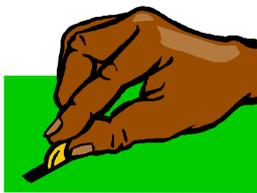
Please pray for the people in Sri Lanka, especially the children who were affected by the tsunami in 2004. Pray that they will keep getting the food and shelter they need to live, and that those who lost family and friends in the tsunami will find comfort.

Pray for the Christians in Sri Lanka to trust God and keep worshipping Him, even when things are difficult. Pray that they can show God's love to the Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims in Sri Lanka. Pray for Grant and his team, as well as everyone else working in Sri Lanka to help people. Pray for strength, love and wisdom as they keep trusting God.

Here's some fun ways to remember to pray this month:

- Every time you see someone drinking a cup of tea, stop and pray for Sri Lanka!
- Every time you see people playing cricket, do the same
- Every time you see an elephant... hang on, that may not be too often! But you could make an elephant picture like this to hang up in your room:





World Champions... Give!

People around the world gave money to help people affected by the tsunami. The problem is that because the tsunami happened a few years ago and there's no news about it any more, it's easy to forget that people still are struggling and need help. If you would like to help pay for the work Grant and his team are doing with people in Sri Lanka, send us the money and we will get it out to them.



Money from Sri Lanka

Here's an idea on how you and could save for Sri Lanka:

Why not get your family, friends or class to help you out in this...

Imagine you are in one of the families Grant and his team have helped. Make a 'hut' in your house, class or garden to remind you of the temporary shelters they are now staying in. Have a sleep-over in it and only eat rice or dhal, and drink only tea or water. You could get people to sponsor you and send that money to us to send to Grant.



World Champions... Go for it!

Do you sometimes find it difficult to trust God? Are there times when you don't really want to worship Him because you don't think He's being fair to you? Remember this month's memory verse. God wants us to remember that He is mighty and powerful, so to trust Him and worship Him always.

As you think about children in Sri Lanka, ask God to help you trust Him and keep worshipping Him, even when things are difficult.

If anyone you know is having a tough time, why not be a World Champion and remind them with your words and actions that God loves them, that He is mighty and powerful, and that they can trust Him for everything!



'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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