

World Champions

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



Country focus: Sudan

Imagine living in a dry, dusty land. You've run away from your home because there is fighting there and no food. Everywhere you go, you are in danger from the fighting, and you're not sure if you'll find food for dinner. You are also afraid of spirits and pray to your ancestors.

This is the life that millions of children and adults live in Sudan. About 40 million people live in this mostly Muslim country. As well as many famines, there has been terrible fighting here for 50 years, and one sad thing is that Christians are often given extra trouble because they love God.

Most people in Sudan don't know what it's like to live in peace, and many don't know about how God can bring real peace to their lives, even in the middle of war. People in Sudan really need World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Topic:
Peace from God

Bible reading:

Life was hard but this writer found peace from God and knew He would save him.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Jesus also tells us not to worry about anything because he gives us a peace that is better than the kind of peace we get in the world.

John 14:27

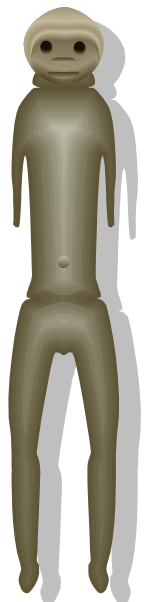
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Memory verse map hunt:

Look at this map of Sudan to find its ten neighbouring countries in the word-find. Tick them off on the map as you find them. The left over letters will spell out this month's memory verse.



Some people in Sudan pray to statues like this one and are afraid of spirits. They don't know that God can give them real peace.



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62:5 (CEV translation)

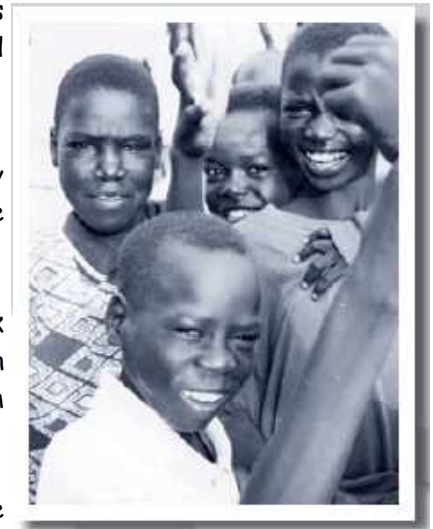
Schools and Centres - World Champions in Sudan:



So many children in Sudan have a very difficult life because of the fighting and lack of food. Many of these children don't know where their families are and either make their way to refugee camps or live on the streets in the cities.

But even in these difficult situations, many children are discovering God's peace through people helping them. We have six schools in refugee camps that about 2500 children come to and have something to do during the day. Otherwise they end up begging or stealing to survive.

In the cities, we also have some centres for boys who live on the streets. Most of the children without homes in the cities are boys, and they sometimes get into a lot of trouble. The boys either live in the centres or come during the day, and people there try to help them by giving them food, playing games with them, teaching them how to read or write and bringing some happiness into their lives. We also try to help them find their missing families.



Mathew was very sick when he was brought to one of the centres:

"I went to the drop in centre and the teacher took me to the hospital. They found that I have diabetes. They are taking care of me, with my medicine and special food," Mathew says.

"My most desperate thing is to find if I have any relatives. I want to go back to my area and see if anyone knows who I am," he explains. "The teachers in the centre are going to help me find my people. All that I know is that I am from Dinka tribe and I know my name."

People like Mathew have lived with war all their lives, but through the love that workers in the centres are showing them, they are discovering the peace that comes from God.



Did you know:

Sudan is the largest country in Africa.

Its original name is *Bilad al-Sudan*, which means "Place of the black people" in Arabic.



Many of the world's peanuts are grown in Sudan.

In some tribes in Sudan, if a man wants to marry a woman, he must give her family cows in exchange for her. The more beautiful the woman is, the more cows she is worth!



Can you draw Sudan's flag?

Follow the instructions to know what to do.

1. Find the middle of the rectangle. Move your pencil a bit to the left of the middle and draw a dot.
2. Make a line from the top left corner to the dot and another line from the bottom left corner to the dot. You will have drawn a triangle pointing towards the middle of the flag.
3. Colour the triangle in dark green.
4. Divide the rest of the flag into three horizontal lines.
5. Colour the top section red and the bottom one black. Leave the middle one white.

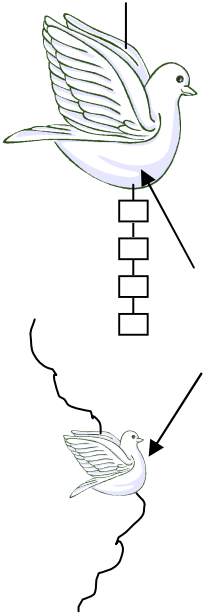




World Champions... Pray!

You can be a World Champion by praying for children in Sudan.

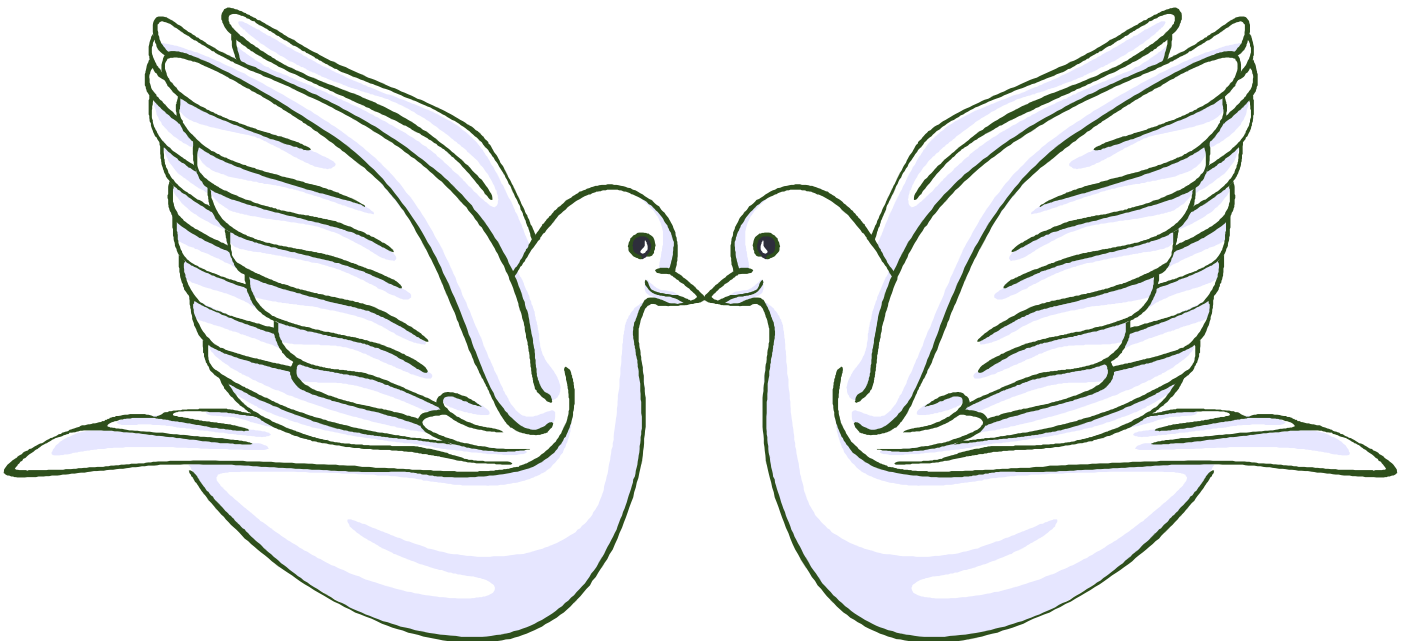
- Pray for the many children in Sudan who have lost their families or have nowhere to live. Pray that they will find peace from God.
- Thank God for the schools and centres that helps children like these.
- Pray that people in Sudan won't be afraid of spirits or fighting or having no food, but will learn about God and the peace that He gives.
- Pray for the Christians who live mostly in the south of Sudan. Many of them have a difficult time because they are Christians. Pray for God's strength and peace to help them live for Him every day.
- Pray that all the fighting stops in Sudan and that peace will come to the country.



Peace Dove Mobile:

Doves are a traditional symbol of peace, and have been used as symbols by God in the Bible to show He is with us. There are also many doves in Sudan. You can make this peace dove mobile to hang up in your room to remember that God is with us and gives us peace, as well as reminding you to pray for people in Sudan.

1. Copy the doves below onto another paper to cut out.
2. Write this month's memory verse on each dove's tummy so you can see it clearly from a distance. Colour the doves in if you want to.
3. Tape a long piece of string to the middle of the back of one of the doves so that there is a long piece sticking out from the top and the bottom.
4. Glue or tape the two doves together so you get one with a picture on the front and the back. (If you want to make it more 3-D, put a few rolled up pieces of tissue or toilet paper between the two pieces before you glue them together.)
5. Write the things you want to remember to pray for on small bits of paper and tape them to the bottom string on the dove.
6. Hang the dove up from the top string and remember that God gives us peace and to pray for Sudan!!



Did you know:

- There are no sealed roads in the south of Sudan - they are all dirt.
- 9 out of 10 children in Sudan never go to school.
- The longest river in the world runs through Sudan from north to south. It's the same river that Moses in his basket was put in when he was a baby. Do you know what it's called? Look on the map on the front page to see if you can find it.





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 our people in Sudan, so they can keep running the schools and centres.

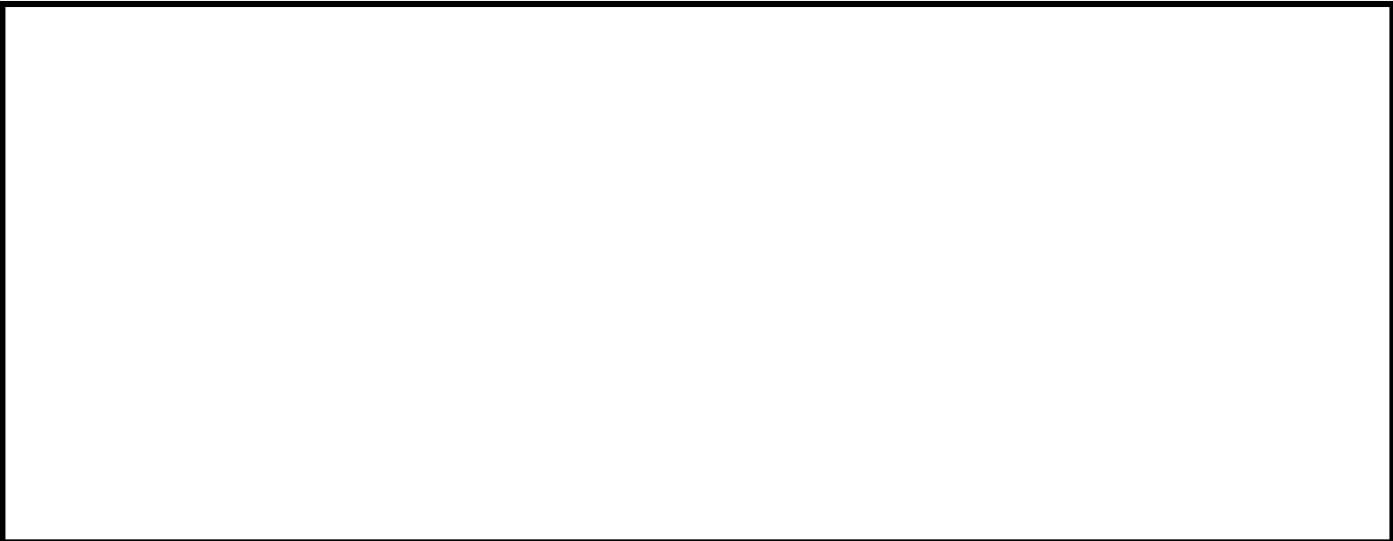
Giving is not just money. How else can you be a World Champion to those around you by giving? Maybe you know someone who is worried about something at the moment. We may not be able to help with whatever they are worried about, but we can remind them that God gives peace, no matter what is going on. How do you think you could show them God's peace? Unscramble the words for some ideas of things you could give them.

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World Champions... Go for it!

It's special to know that God gives us peace, even in difficult times. But sometimes it's hard to really believe that He does, especially when we don't feel very peaceful! In the book of Psalms, David compares God to a shepherd who cares for his sheep. They are safe and protected, even in difficult times. Find a Bible and read Psalm 23. Then draw a picture of a shepherd with sheep and write the different ways that God gives us peace below:



'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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