

World Champions

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

Country focus: Trinidad and Tobago

Topic: *God has the power to change us*



The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is a country in the Caribbean. It is made up of 2 main islands and 21 tiny islands which are home to almost one and a half million people. Most people have African or Indian ancestors, and they are famous for having festivals and big street parties called carnivals throughout the year. There are Muslim and Hindu festivals, as well as Christian ones. Most people would say they are Christians, but not many think too much about God. Instead, they often use the Christian festivals as an excuse to have a big party. They don't know that God has the power to change their lives. Trinidad and Tobago really need World Champions to Pray, Give and Go For It!

Bible reading:

God has the power to change us.

How does He want us to change?

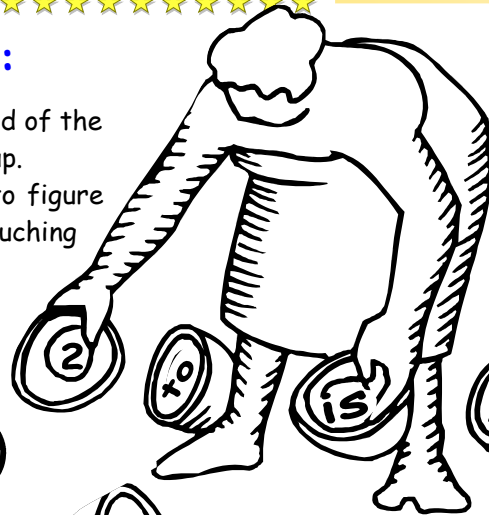
Read what Paul writes in

Ephesians 4:17-32



This month's memory verse:

People in Trinidad and Tobago love their coconuts! Each word of the memory verse is written in one, but they've all been mixed up. Can you help the lady change the order of the coconuts to figure out what this month's memory verse is? The coconuts touching each other belong together.



Coconuts containing words: good, and, pleasing, to, do, everything, that, you, think, you, Then, the, people, change, the, way, of, this, world, let, God, him, Romans 12:, but, will, know, how, don't, be, like.

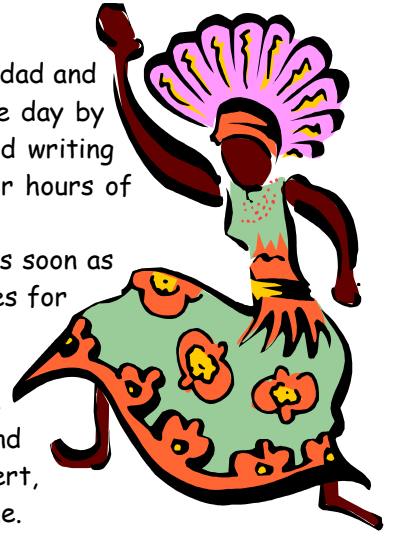
Carnival time in Trinidad and Tobago:

Just over a month before Easter time, is the biggest party of the year in Trinidad and Tobago. Thousands of men, women and children spend weeks preparing for the day by making glittery costumes and beautiful masks, as well as practicing dances and writing funny songs. Then, on the day - Shrove Tuesday, they take to the streets for hours of parades, singing and dancing, which suddenly ends at midnight.

This is a highlight of the year for many children in Trinidad and Tobago, and as soon as midnight comes, they go home to bed already planning their masks and costumes for the next year!

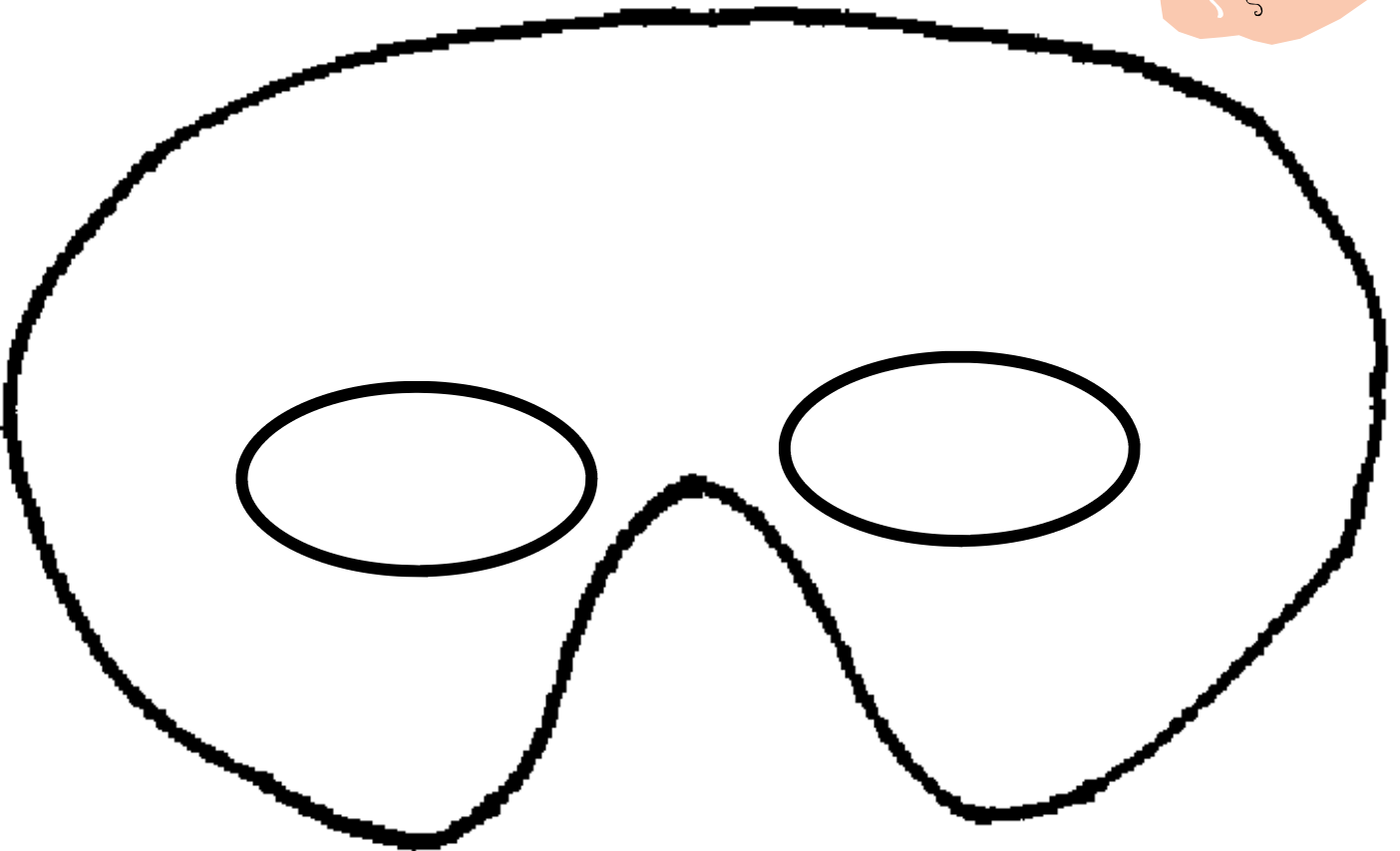
This carnival actually started as a Christian festival. For 40 days before Easter, many Christians discipline themselves and don't eat things like lollies and chocolate, in order to remember the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, and to think seriously about what Jesus did for them on the cross at Easter time.

People in Trinidad and Tobago decided to have a big party just before the 40 days started, so they could have a final good time before they had to be serious. Unfortunately, this has for many people, turned into nothing more than a big party. They don't think about God at all during carnival time, or afterwards.



Design your own carnival mask!

How creative are you? Trace this mask design onto thick paper and make the most glittery, amazing carnival mask you can! People in Trinidad and Tobago like using feathers, beads and ribbon on theirs. What else could you use?



When you have finished, either attach string or elastic to the sides to tie it around your head, or tape a stick to one side, so you can hold it up as you look through it.

The Logos 2 crew - World Champions in Trinidad and Tobago:



When the Logos 2 ship was in Trinidad and Tobago recently, the crew spent as much time as they could with children there. Some organised a special party for children who lived on the streets instead of in a normal home. They had games, singing and lots of time with each child. Ben from Argentina also told a story from the Bible about a shepherd who would leave 99 sheep just to look for the lost one. He was able to explain to the children that God loved them and they could call Him Father.

At about the same time, Kathryn from England visited a home for children with very bad behaviour. She talked with one girl who knew her temper could get out of control, and really wanted to change, but didn't know how. Kathryn shared with her that God has the power to change our hearts when we allow Him to. Kathryn asked the girl if she wanted to give her life and behaviour to Him to change. The girl nodded and the two of them prayed together. Kathryn promised she would return and bring a present to her new friend. Later, Kathryn did come back to the home, with a copy of the Bible. The girl's face lit up and she was so happy to get this gift. Kathryn then asked God to help the girl understand more of her new faith.



Did you know:

Children only have to go to school for six years in Trinidad and Tobago!



Have you heard of 'Robinson Crusoe' or 'Treasure Island'? Trinidad and Tobago was the country that inspired the setting for both those stories.

People in Trinidad and Tobago call themselves Trinis.

There are 7 women for every man in Trinidad and Tobago!



World Champions... Pray!

You can be a World Champion by praying for people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank God for:

- The many Christian people who live there
- The crew of the Logos 2, who could share God's love with children in Trinidad and Tobago

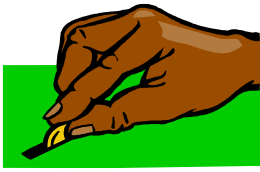
Ask God for:

- people to understand that He can change their lives
- More people to love and follow God, instead of thinking that only parties and carnivals bring them happiness
- More missionaries to go to Trinidad and Tobago

Why not make a carnival theme in your room to remember to pray for Trinidad and Tobago this month?

You could blow up balloons and hang up streamers, and write prayer requests on some of them. Or make masks to hang on the wall with prayer points on them. Can you think of anything else to pray for?





World Champions... Give!

You can also be a World Champion by giving. Just like Ben told the children about God's love and Kathryn gave the girl a Bible, you can give God's love to people through your words and actions. God's love is the best gift there is. Because He loved the people of this world, He sent Jesus to die for our sins, so we can be totally changed into God's children.

How can you give God's love to somebody this month?



World Champions... Go for it!

God has the power to change us.

Kathryn prayed with the girl in Trinidad and Tobago for God to help her with her bad temper.

God is able to change things in you too. What are some of the things you think or do that you know are wrong and would like God to change?

Are you thinking of some things? Do you want to ask God to change them now? Here's an idea for a prayer you could pray. You can change the words around if you want to.

Dear God,

You know I want to change _____.

But I find it very difficult. You have the power to change lives, so I ask You to please change this in my life. Please make me trust You more and obey what You say in the Bible. I know it 's not always going to be easy, but I pray that You give me strength to do the right thing. Amen.

Even though you may have asked God to change something about your behaviour, He still gives us the choice to choose to do right or wrong. But the Bible tells us that God will never let us be tempted so much to do the wrong thing that we have no way out and HAVE to do it.

The more we pray to God and learn about what He wants by reading the Bible and meeting with other Christians, the easier it gets to do the right things. So, World Champions, GO FOR IT! Ask God to change your lives, and trust that He can!



'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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