

Olympic Torch Relay Messages

From the pen of BUC Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Nathan Stickland

DAY 1

Today marks the start of the Olympic Torch arriving in the UK and starting its journey from Lands End, Cornwall, around the UK, visiting Dublin, Ireland, and finishing up at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on 27 July.

It is symbolic that the torch has three sides. This represents the three times the Olympic Games has been in the UK. The torch will be sweeping the nation, reaching within 10 miles of 95% of the population. 8000 miles with 8000 runners, and lots of spectators along the way.

I can't help but wonder about the symbolism and how we could be doing something equally symbolic, but even more significant.

The torch has three sides; our God has three aspects, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The flame is permanently lit, as it travels across the British Isles. The Holy Spirit is represented by a flame.

What if every church, every home, every person, prayed for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to sweep our nations? What if, for 70 days, we devoted ourselves to the search for the presence of God?

If the followers of Jesus met together and prayed for 10 days, after the ascension of Jesus, and then the power of God was manifest by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and 3000 were converted by the speech of one man, what could God do through us if we made ourselves available to His presence in our lives?

I invite you all to pray for the presence of God to be in your lives, and share this with your friends.

But be ready for the power of God to work in your life.

Are you ready?

Let's pray!

DAY 2

The Olympic torch moved through Devon today. I lived in Devon as a child. As a family we were the first to move into Broomhill House, a youth /conference centre bought by the South England Conference following a special offering at an SEC church session.

It was a wonderful place to be as a primary school aged child. Open spaces, trees to climb, wildlife to enjoy.

There were about a dozen American student missionaries that stayed at the Exeter church, and as there was one family with kids my age, we enjoyed even more their visit.

Many seemed to play the guitar, and one, Steve Dubose, wrote a song about Devon. The words were something like, "Devon, dresses in your spring fashion, you look so fresh and alive, released from winters cold hands."

The sense of new life in the fields of Devon in springtime for me is memorable. And it is this emerging new life that we can experience now, as we pray during the tour of the UK and Ireland of the Olympic Flame.

May the presence of God give you newness of life, now, and as God fulfils His promises in the future. Keep praying and seeking God with your whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13).