

KID ZONE 6

Go for Gold

The Olympic Torch is being passed on from runner to runner on its way from Athens to London. It is being carried through every city, town and village in the UK. It has to get to London to light the Olympic Flame for the Opening Ceremony on 27 July.

Paul's missionary journeys were like that. The torch is like the good news about Jesus that had changed Paul's life. He wanted to take this to other cities and towns to change the lives of other people, too.

DOWN
BUT NOT OUT

"THESE MEN SERVE THE ONE TRUE GOD. THEY'VE COME TO TELL YOU HOW TO BE SAVED!" the slave woman shouted.

Every time she saw Paul and Silas in the streets of Philippi, she yelled this, pointing to them.

She had a miserable life. She had been bought as a slave because she could tell people's fortunes. Sadly, she was under Satan's power and said what he told her. People paid her masters lots of money. But her masters paid her nothing. They just used her.

What she yelled was true. But Paul wanted people to discover this themselves, not from her. He felt very sorry for her.

So Paul looked at her and said: "In the name of Jesus I command you to come out from her."

The evil spirit left her. Suddenly she felt very happy but her masters were furious. She couldn't tell people's fortunes and they wouldn't get the money.

They dragged Paul and Silas to court.

"These men are criminals. They're here to make trouble," they shouted. "They're traitors."

The judges didn't try to find the truth.

"Beat these men and throw them into prison," they ordered.

Paul and Silas were given terrible beatings. The jailer thought they were very dangerous criminals, so he chained them to the walls of the most secure cell.

They were very sore and bleeding. They were down but

not out in their race with Jesus. Actually, they were glad, because now they could tell the other prisoners about Jesus. During the night they sang songs to praise God and prayed aloud. The other prisoners were amazed and wanted to hear more.

At midnight there was a very severe earthquake. The locked doors of the prison flew open. The chains fell off the walls.

The jailer woke. He knew he would die if the prisoners escaped. So he took out his sword to kill himself.

"Stop!" Paul shouted. "No one's escaped. We're all still here."

The jailer was amazed. He knelt and said: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved," Paul said.

The jailer took Paul and Silas into his home. Paul explained to all his family about Jesus and helped them to pray. They asked Jesus to forgive their sins and they believed in him as their Lord and Saviour. They started the race with Jesus and were baptised.

They cooked a meal for Paul and Silas and washed their sore backs.

In the morning the judges sent a message: "Let Paul and Silas go."

But Paul said: "We're Roman citizens. We shouldn't be beaten without a proper trial. No! Let the judges come and set us free."

The judges were very scared. They knew they should have held a proper trial. They came and begged Paul and Silas to leave Philippi.

But first Paul met with all the new Christians and prayed for them. Then he left to go to other cities on his race with Jesus.

Read the story for yourself from Acts 16:16 – 40.



BE AN ATHLETE!

MAKE YOURSELF AN OLYMPIC TORCH

You will need a large hand-held torch with batteries; gold foil; sellotape; red, yellow and orange cellophane or acetate.

Cover the torch with gold foil but leave the switch uncovered. Stick the foil on with sellotape. Cut out flame shapes from the cellophane and acetate. Stick these around the light. If you use cellophane you may need to stick the flames together at the top to make it look like a fire.

Switch the torch on and practise running with it and passing it on to other runners without dropping it.

A great DVD to watch for the Olympics is "Chariots of Fire". It tells the story of a Christian athlete, Eric Liddell, who refused to race on a Sunday but won another event. It has good music to run to.

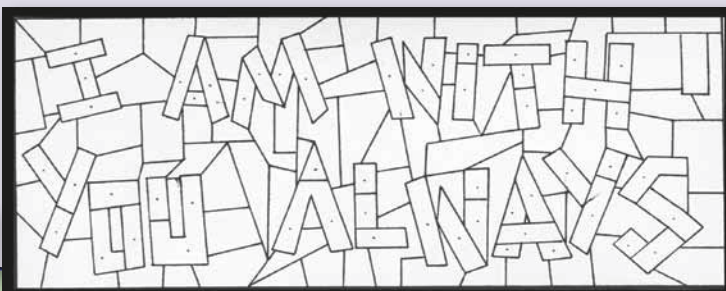


YOUR OLYMPIC SCRAPBOOK

I hope you've got lots of space left in your Olympic Scrapbook. There will be lots of stories in the newspaper and on the internet to stick in starting with the Opening Ceremony on 27 July. It is still not too late to start this.

A PROMISE TO HELP YOU

Here is a promise to us from Jesus himself. Print it and colour in the spaces with dots in them. Look it up in **Matthew 28: 20**.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Spot 8 differences between these two pictures of Paul in prison at Philippi:



A VERSE TO LEARN

Can you read this verse? The words are back to front, but not the numbers:

ehT droL spleh esoht ohw era ni elbuort;
eh stfilpu esoht ohw evah nellaf. mlasP 145: 14

Look up the verse in a Good News Bible. Write it correctly and learn it by heart.

Talking with the Coach

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me in my race with you. Thank you that when I am down you lift me up. Amen