

A call to prayer for our communities and the nations

A TIME TO SHINE

Shine as the Flame travels

An invitation to join a 70-day Cascade of Prayer

Background

The Olympic Torch is to be run throughout the UK for the 70 days leading up to the opening of the 2012 Games.

The route taken is through more than 1,000 communities and within ten miles of almost the whole of the UK's population.

For more details of where the Torch will travel and More than Gold's response go to www.morethangold.org.uk/Torchrelay

The goal

Our longing is to see –

- The Olympic Torch Relay used as a catalyst by hundreds of churches to mobilise united and creative prayer for their communities and the nations
- This cascade of prayer and worship preparing the way for all the service, mission and hospitality taking place in thousands of communities during 2012 and beyond.

Being developed is a separate prayer initiative for the Paralympic Torch Relay, which has its focus on the UK's capital cities.

Prayer along the route

As the Torch Relay passes through communities we encourage them to mark the event with prayer. This could be on the day(s) before, on the day when the Torch comes through or on the day(s) after.

This could involve

- Individuals and small groups – praying outside homes, offices, along streets, in parks, in workplaces
- Churches or groups of churches – holding short prayer times in public spaces along or near the route
- Prayer walking every street in your area; prayer driving/walking the route
- Holding prayer vigils, evenings, days or weeks of prayer
- Organising a mini prayer relay among local churches
- Designing a local prayer baton of blessing - which may then link to the prayer relay of blessing (see below)
- Encouraging special prayers to be written for your area

We ask for the focus to be on praying for the release of God's blessing and light among our communities and the nations.

Resources

We will provide prayers of blessing. Also –

- ***The More Than Gold Churches Prayer Guide*** is full of creative ideas and can be downloaded at www.morethangold.org.uk/free-resources
- **The 48 page Event Pack for Churches** has ideas and resources to help churches engage with their community during the Games and Torch Relay. Plus ways to inspire the Church including prayers. To request go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/churcheventpack
- ***A1 and A3 posters of the route*** are being produced by United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) to help everyone pray for every place over the 70 days. They will be available in March. Details of how to order will be given in our regular eNews.

Prayers where the Torch stops – the Prayer Relay of Blessing

As well as the Cascade of Prayer all around the British Isles, we are working towards a Prayer Relay of Blessing, to link the 70 locations where the Torch will stop overnight.

We are contacting leaders in each of the 70 cities or towns, so the prayer relay of blessing can go unbroken through the 70 days. This will not be able to travel on the exact route of the Torch as many roads will be closed by the Olympic organisers.

The way the Prayer Relay of Blessing will work is as follows:

When the Torch starts its journey from Lands End on Saturday 19th May, Christian leaders in Cornwall will travel to the next main stopping place (Plymouth). Here they will bring prayers of blessing and hand on a symbolic prayer baton to Christian leaders there.

That simple process will continue day by day. That means on 20th May, Plymouth leaders will travel to Exeter – and so on through the 70 days. As a result, each community receives and releases prayers of blessing.

As plans are made by each of the 70 locations we will include them on our website and post them on our Facebook page so anyone can join in.

Worship along the route

Christians from a church near to Lands End are organising a praise and worship bus to travel ahead of the Olympic Torch on its route across mainland England, Wales and Scotland.

They are looking for churches along the route to offer praise bands, choirs etc so there is continuous praise and worship. If you can help please contact them at: www.thejourneyfromescalls.co.uk

The next step for churches

We suggest you make a start now on planning your involvement in the 70 day cascade

Raise the idea at the next meeting of leaders, Churches Together or whatever network best serves Christian unity in your area and start to make plans.

Co-ordinate what is planned in prayer with whatever else is being planned for the Torch Relay by churches in your area.

Let us know your plans as they emerge and we can link you with your local More Than Gold Torch representative so events can be locally publicised.

The Prayer Relay of Blessing. If you want to know more details of the Prayer Relay of Blessing in your area let us know and we can link you with your local More Than Gold representative. Email torch@morethangold.org.uk

Share your ideas. We will use our website, Facebook and Twitter pages to highlight the creative ideas being planned so ideas and resources can be shared. To join our Facebook conversation use the link from our website home page or click [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you.

More Than Gold Prayer and Torch Team
February 2012