



# *Press In Print*

News and information from the President's Office  
assembled by Dale Galusha and Gina Duncan

## *Happy Retirement, Mel!*

by Eric Petersen

This Thursday will be Mel McGuire's last day working with us here at Pacific Press.

Monday morning, the Production Department had the privilege of worshipping together with music from Mel and Cheri McGuire and Harold and Carolyn Curtis. During a worship thought, Harold reminded us that no matter how bad of a day we're having, how much trouble a machine might be giving, how tired or short-staffed we are, if one person comes to Jesus through the material we send out, then it's all worth it. What a blessing and a great way to start the work week!

Mel and Cheri began working with us in 2009; we appreciate their commitment to the mission of Pacific Press and the cause of Christ.

Mel's love for God reflects in his kindness and how he interacts with his coworkers. He has an easy going personality which makes him pleasant to work with. His good work ethic and can-do attitude have been a great asset on difficult jobs. His organization and job knowledge has been invaluable. Mel will be greatly missed, but we wish him many blessings in his next chapter.



# Fun Facts About The Olympic Games

[www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com)

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics are finally happening in Japan, a whole year after they were meant to take place! Let's celebrate this astonishing event, by taking a look at some top facts about the Olympics...

**The first Olympic Games took place in 776BC,** began as part of an Ancient Greek festival, which celebrated Zeus, the Greek God of sky and weather. The whole competition lasted for up to six months, and included games like wrestling, boxing, long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing.

**In 393 AD, the Olympic Games were cancelled and didn't start up again for over 1,500 years!** Emperor Theodosius I, a Roman ruler, banned the Greek Olympics due to the religious element of the celebration. He considered the Olympics to be a pagan festival, which had no place in his Christian country. So, that was the end of the Olympics until 1894, when a man named Baron Pierre de Coubertin started a revival of the Games. He called this new event the 'modern Olympics' – and it's still going today!

**The Olympic torch is a reminder of the Games' Greek origins.** Since 1928, this tradition has continued in the modern Games and the flame burns in a special torch. The torch flame is always lit by the sun in Olympia, Greece, as this is where the first Greek Games was held. Then, it's passed from torch to torch in a massive international relay that ends in the host city. New torches are designed for each Olympics, and several thousand copies are made. It's a great honor to become a torchbearer, and lots of inspiring people get a turn each time.

**The first Summer Olympic Games had just 14 participating countries.** Teams from 11 European countries originally joined those of Australia, Chile, and the USA at the first host city, Athens. Now, more than 200 countries compete in the Olympics each year!

**The Olympic symbol was designed to include everyone.** The Olympic rings were first produced in 1913, from a design created by the Games' modern founder – Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Their five colors (along with the white backdrop) reflect colors found on the flags of all participating nations, so everyone is represented. The overlaps also represent international cooperation, and the coming together of athletes from all over the world.

**The first Winter Olympic Games were held in 1924,** in a different city to the Summer Olympics. At first, the Winter Olympics took place in the same year as the Summer ones, but organizers soon realized that it made more sense to hold them in different years. As a result, the Winter Olympics now occur two years after the Summer Olympics.

**From 1921-1948, artists participated in the Olympics too.** In these games, painters, sculptors, architects, writers, and musicians all took part! They competed for medals by creating works of art, that often celebrated the sporting successes going on at the same time. While artists stopped officially competing in 1948, many still design posters and other merchandise for the Games today.

**Until 1912, first-place Olympic medals were made of solid gold!** Sadly though, it's no longer the case. Recent Games have given out around 5,000 bronze, silver, and gold medals in total – that's a lot of metal! So instead of being created from solid gold, the heavy first-place medals are now covered in 6 grams of it.

