



## SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

### *An Anniversary Worth Noting*

#### ***What makes this day significant?***

Many of us remember the movie *Chariots of Fire*. It's the story of Scottish Olympian **Eric Liddell** declining to run in his best event, the 100-meter race, as qualifying was on the Sabbath. Instead, he stunned the world by winning the gold medal in the more grueling 400-meter, and in record time. That was at the Paris Olympics in 1924, and the centennial of that achievement was celebrated last year in conjunction with the 2024 Games, also in Paris.

But there is another inspiring 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary that deserves attention – June 29, 1925: the day Eric Liddell left his fame, potential for fortune, and his beloved Scotland behind to answer a different calling – to be a missionary to China. The invasion by Japan during World War II landed him and other expats in an internment camp. There, he continued to teach children, organize sports, preach on Sunday, and lift the spirits of his fellow internees. Sadly, he died of a brain tumor just five months before the camp was liberated, but not before modeling a whole life of Christian discipleship that is relevant to this day.

#### ***What lessons can be learned from Eric's life?***

Passion, Compassion, and Integrity. These are values that Eric's life inspired. And we have only to look at news headlines, social media, or even in our own neighborhoods to realize how much the world could use people who live with those values today. Eric Liddell proved that, even in challenging times, it is possible. Consider that:

- He was a Christ-follower who knew what he believed and stuck to his convictions.
- He explored his interests, discovered his gifting, and found his passion.
- He truly cared about people outside of the circle in which he literally ran.
- He was a highly competitive athlete who modeled sportsmanship.
- He was devoted to his family, his friends, and his community.
- He faced obstacles, adversity, and persecution with courage and grace.

#### ***How might a church recognize this anniversary?***

The Edinburgh-based charity, The Eric Liddell Community, worked with the local faith community to develop [free resources](#) churches can use to share Eric's story. Themes could be around missions, service, calling, obedience, purpose, priorities, perseverance, or a combination. Downloadable materials from [www.ericliddell.org/us-canada](http://www.ericliddell.org/us-canada) include:

- A sample sermon, sermon topics, more biographical info, and small group lessons
- A 5-day Bible reading plan available through YouVersion
- Links to Eric Liddell video clips (e.g., a 1-minute clip of the race from the 1924 Games)
- Ideas for church activities (see the next page)

Ideas for involvement could range from simply using Eric's story as a sermon example to building a full weekend around it, such as:

Saturday     Have a movie night to show *Chariots of Fire*

Sunday        In the morning service, share Eric's story as an example of the themes noted above (e.g., obedience to answering the call). If shared on June 29, note that "It was 100 years ago today that Eric Liddell put his fame and prospect for fortune behind to answer God's call to serving others."

After the service, have a congregational lunch. Invite a local athlete to share his or her story and talk about the impact of Eric's story and values on their life.

Stage fun activities for kids, such as a 100-meter race (Eric's best event). Find more ideas in the free Sports Tool Kit available on the website.

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If you have an interest, questions, or ideas, please contact Mart Martin, Eric Liddell 100 US Ambassador at [mmartin@3keyquestions.com](mailto:mmartin@3keyquestions.com).

We hope you'll celebrate this inspiring anniversary with us!