Forever Newsletter

The YWAM Olympic Outreach
Issue 14 January 2012

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Forthcoming

Discipleship Training School (DTS) Gatherings

The next DTS Gathering is in the Olympic venue of

Coventry

17–24 March 2012

The next DTS Gathering after that is in the Olympic venue of

Glasgow

27 October–3 November 2012

All DTSs, YWAM staff, YWAM associates and friends are welcome, for a day or more, or for the week!

For more information, contact Rossie at Rossie@forever2012.com.

Go 4 Glory!

Arts and sport are two areas where you can get involved in the Olympic outreach.

Here we find out about an arts and sport festival happening the week before the Games.

Go 4 Glory is an International Arts and Sports Festival being held in Harpenden, England, from 20–25 July 2012 (that's the week running up to the start of the Olympic Games). This event will give all Christian artists and athletes, both from England and internationally, an opportunity to celebrate, train, network and promote their ministry.

We are running Go 4 Glory because of a word of the Lord to set up an event that will provide a platform for all Christian artists and athletes to come together to give Him glory. We felt we were to run it directly before the London Olympic Games so that people attending Go 4 Glory could then go on to the Olympic outreach, which begins on 27 July. Those involved in the Olympic outreach will receive orientation training during Go 4 Glory.

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Editorial

And so 2012 arrives. The ***Forever*** project has been going for over four years. When it first started, 2012 seemed a long way away. Now suddenly it's here – the Olympic year!

This edition of the ***Forever*** newsletter takes a look at some of the bigger picture linked to the Olympic outreach. There's the story of what God has been speaking to YWAM England since 2006 about the next wave of missionaries.

And there's also Go 4 Glory, a great example of how a number of other major YWAM events are being held around the Olympic period. It will be amazing to have hundreds of artists and sportspeople working together in one place just before the Games start.

Such events may not be for everyone, so it is also good to have a reminder that there is one way we can all get involved in this amazing year of outreach: prayer! Even if you can't be with us in person, be with us in prayer!

Variety performance

Mornings at Go 4 Glory will begin with us all coming together to worship the Lord and to have keynote speakers challenge and teach us. Each day there will be seminars and workshops with top teachers covering a variety of topics in the Arts and sports.

There will be multiple stages available for artists to perform and numerous sports fields for a range of sports from soccer to dodgeball so athletes can train and compete. Two art galleries will be available to exhibit art or photography, as well as an art studio to create new pieces. There will also be a Mission Expo area where ministries can display their work.

Go OUT for glory

We are "blessed to be a blessing" – so on Sunday 22 July we want all Go 4 Glory delegates to be part of an exciting outreach opportunity into a local community where we'll have a stage, do festival activities and provide interactive sports options. Come prepared to share your skills.

Take up your place

If you sing, dance, paint, mime, play football, cricket, skateboard or are involved in any arts or sports ministry, there is a place for you at Go 4 Glory. Do you want to be part of what God is doing through arts and sports in establishing a network of Christians with Godly values, to influence this next generation? Register online for Go 4 Glory at www.go4glory.org.

Go 4 Glory is being organised by the international committee for the College of Arts and Sports (www.ywamcas.org) of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), and is for anyone (YWAM or non-YWAM) involved in the Arts or sports. It is one of a number of events being planned by YWAM around the time of the Olympic outreach.

Stick around after Go 4 Glory!

Forever team leader Yan Nicholls comments: "Go 4 Glory is going to be a fantastic event, and will act as a great prelude for the Olympic outreaches. We want to see many hundreds of artists and sportspeople come for this event: it promises to be a powerful time of doing things that YWAM seems to be anointed for – worship, teaching, networking, vision-making and outreach.

"With the Arts and sport being two of the main focus areas for the Olympic outreach, my hope is that many of those who attend the Go 4 Glory festival will stay on to do arts or sports outreach during the Olympics."

To find out more about our arts and sport outreaches, visit the ***Forever*** website – www.forever2012.com.

Riding the Next Wave

What does the 2012 Olympic outreach have to do with a sailing yacht? Captain Brian Sloan, co-director of Marine Reach Ministries, explains.

Ships and boats are going to be a feature of the 2012 Olympic outreach! A replica Viking long boat full of real Vikings will sail from Norway to Newcastle at the beginning of the outreach. That will create waves! But that boat will be accompanied by another vessel – *s/y Next Wave*, the ship owned by Youth With A Mission (YWAM) England and operated by Marine Reach Ministries, YWAM's maritime arm.

So what is the significance of the *Next Wave* being part of the Olympic outreach? To understand that, I need to tell you the story of the ship's purchase.

Living on the edge

In 2006, YWAM England's leadership felt strongly they should purchase the 42-metre sailing vessel *s/y Elida IV*. A price of €1.3 million was agreed, with a £100,000 deposit due in November. Crew had to be recruited and trained and a support organisation built.

That August the project was endorsed by the YWAM Global Leadership Team with a £1,700 offering. Then, at the YWAM England staff conference in September, YWAM founder Loren Cunningham took a faith offering, from about 200 staff, of £63,000. That's the biggest offering YWAM England staff have ever given! Loren raised the rest of the £100,000 as he toured England.

Work started to upgrade and refit *Elida IV*, and on 27 March 2007 the newly-named *s/y Next Wave* was registered as a large commercial yacht. To pay for the vessel in full, a ten-year mortgage of £960,000 was taken out; £100,000 was spent on the refitting, surveys and legal costs.

A frightening amount of money, but like Peter in Matthew 14:22–33, we heard Christ call and "stepped out of the boat". Since then, God has provided miraculously, including one gift of £750,000. People have been blessed by their time on-board or during port visits. Faith has grown, as we "live on the edge", being drawn to trust God more.

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Nations that have visited our website!

Across the world, interest in the Olympic outreach continues to grow. By mid-December, people from 126 nations and territories had visited our website. There's now too many to list here, but the top 20 in terms of number of visits are:

- United Kingdom
- USA
- Brazil
- Canada
- Germany
- Sweden
- Norway
- Australia
- France
- South Africa
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Indonesia
- Spain
- Philippines
- Finland
- Italy
- Malaysia

Encouragingly, that list includes countries from all the continents (except Antarctica!).

This Olympic outreach promises to be a global affair!

Translation service

***Forever* website**

The ***Forever*** website is now available in French and Portuguese.

To view either of them, visit www.forever2012.com and click on "En francais" for the French version and "Em Português" for the Portuguese version.

Translations in Korean and Spanish are underway!

***Forever* video**

The new ***Forever*** video is available with subtitles in Portuguese and Swedish.

You can view the Portuguese version either by visiting the Portuguese ***Forever*** website (see above) or going to the following link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7AKsC9NAI4&list=UUIrPom4KNnNCUaORj5tyiCQ&index=2&feature=plcp

You can view the Swedish version by going to the following link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9CMlidNK5I

French, Korean and Spanish subtitles are in the pipeline.

After five years, *Next Wave* has sailed all across Europe and into the Black Sea. She has undertaken medical/mercy ministry outreaches to Albania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, hosted a Discipleship Training School (DTS) each year and been a base for outreaches in 13 countries.

The year ahead

This Olympic year will be busy for the *Next Wave*! From January to March, she is hosting YWAM Liverpool's School Of Evangelism while berthed in Albert Docks, Liverpool. From April to July, she sails to Ireland, Plymouth, Isle of Wight, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

During July, the *Next Wave* will escort the Viking long boat from Norway to Newcastle, arriving on 29 July. She will then join YWAM's Olympic outreach in Newcastle until 18 August, acting as a floating base for the outreach in the city. We are expecting the *Next Wave* to be a stage for events, acts and shows, and also to be a water-borne hospitality tent! From 20 August–9 September she will act as a focal point for outreach events during the Paralympics' sailing events in Weymouth. Post-Olympics, she will host her next YWAM DTS, which starts in late September.

All hands on deck ... *the Next Wave will be a floating outreach base*

What's in a name?

The *Next Wave* will be at the Olympic outreach. But the ship's links go deeper than that. One of the main words for YWAM England in the mid-2000s was of raising up the next wave of British missionaries. The *Next Wave* was part of this word, for she was and is a prophetic and spiritual statement of the next wave of missionaries being raised up, while providing one practical solution to this by being a ship for training young people.

That is one aspect of the 2012 Olympic outreach – re-igniting the missionary flame in this country, a reminder of our Christian legacy to the world, the raising up of a new generation of missionaries from this nation to go. It's the *Next Wave*!

For more about the *Next Wave*:
nextwave@marinereach.com
www.marinereachministries.com

Ship-shape ... *the Next Wave in full sail*

Stories from our Olympic outreach past

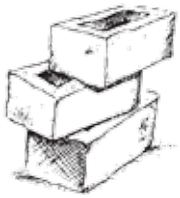
At the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver YWAM organised events for children whose schools were closed during the Games and worked with local churches who opened their doors to create community centres with free internet access, cafés and friendly faces. The creative arts were also well represented with free concerts and street performances.

brick by brick starts!

Join us as we pray for revival in the UK in 2012 and ask God to move in power through the Olympic outreach.

1 January 2012 is almost here, and with it begins a momentous year. The world economy may be in some turmoil, the euro certainly is; and the path of the UK economy is uncertain. Across the globe there are plenty of countries with major or significant problems or strife.

And yet 2012 promises so much! God is doing amazing things, touching hearts, changing lives, and transforming nations and communities. As history teaches us, it is often in the midst of troubled times that people are most likely to look to God.



brick by brick

Unique opportunity

In the UK, we may have largely turned our back on our great Christian heritage, but it is not too late and God is graciously calling us to return to Him! We believe that in 2012 God wants to move across the UK with a fresh move of His Spirit – to transform this nation and re-ignite the people of the UK to live for Jesus.

A major catalyst for this is the opportunities surrounding the London Olympic Games – opportunities to reach out to the communities of the UK. But also opportunities to reach out to the nations that will visit these shores during the Olympics, and to the non-indigenous communities based in our cities. This is a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity!

Time for action

God is God, and He can do things sovereignly as He wants. Yet He chooses to invite us to partner with Him in this transformation process. That involves both physical action and prayer (though prayer often involves physical action too!). In terms of physical action, you can join us in outreach across the UK anytime in 2012, although the main outreach focus will be during the Olympic Games themselves.

And what of prayer? Well, you can partner with us in prayer anytime in 2012. Go to the ***Forever*** website and sign up for **brick by brick**, our online prayer calendar for 2012. Through this prayer tool, we want to bathe the UK and the Olympic outreach in prayer, to do our bit to lay the foundations for all that God wants to do in this nation in this season. Sign up for an hour, a number of hours, or a day or more! Let's cry out to God for our nation and the nations, and see what God will do in 2012!

Sign up to pray now at www.forever2012.com/brickbybrick/

Praise

- There is a host of short-term volunteers coming to help the ***Forever*** core team later this year.
- **brick by brick**, our online prayer calendar for 2012, is fully booked through January.
- Enquiries about sending teams to the Olympic outreach are increasing – as is the number of teams actually signed up to come.
- This month should see our next London team plant happen!
- There are now 625 churches that have indicated that they want to host outreach teams through More Than Gold.
- The ***Forever*** project continues to receive financial donations.

Prayer

- That as we enter 2012, the Church in the UK would fully engage with the opportunities this year offers.
- That many would get a heart for prayer in 2012 and help to lay the prayer foundations for all God wants to do this year.
- That plans continue to move forward for each of our potential new team plants.
- For God to raise the faith level of those bringing and participating in outreach teams.
- For God's provision for the ***Forever*** project throughout 2012.
- That those organisations and individuals involved in the logistics of the Games will embrace the ethos of the Olympics and will not seek to gain undue or unrighteous profit.

Quotable quotes

Athletes who participate in the Olympic Games can be a rich source of inspiration. Here are a few quotations from down the years:

"If things seem difficult in the beginning. That's only the initial impression. The important thing is not to retreat, you have to master yourself."
Olga Korbut

"A trophy carries dust. Memories last forever."
Mary *Lou Retton*

"The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals.º The struggles within yourself – the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us – that's where it's at."
Jesse Owens

"An athlete cannot run with money in his pockets. He must run with hope in his heart and dreams in his head."
Emil Zatopek

"It may sound strange, but many champions are made champions by setbacks."
Bob Richards

"I was told over and over again that I would never be successful, that I was not going to be competitive and the technique was simply not going to work. All I could do was shrug and say, 'We'll just have to see.'"
Dick Fosbury

"I learned that the only way you are going to get anywhere in life is to work hard at it. Whether you're a musician, a writer, an athlete or a businessman, there is no getting around it. If you do, you'll win. If you don't, you won't."
Bruce Jenner

A question of prayer

The recent outreach in London allowed different ideas to be tried out. Phil Summerton reports on one prayer outreach strategy.

We know that prayer is a vital part of being a Christian, as is reaching out and sharing the gospel. But how do we do the two together? How do we engage people with prayer?

One way we did this at the Discipleship Training School Gathering in London in November was to create a questionnaire that combined questions about the community and how the church can get involved, with asking people about their views on prayer. We then asked them if there was anything they would like prayer for.

Listening ear

We found that it was a great way of engaging with the community, listening to what they saw as the needs of the area, and being able both to share hope and to pray for people where they had a need.

One set of questions we asked was, "Do you know of any work that the local churches do within this community? What do you think about the work the local churches do? Could they do more?" These proved good questions to ask, as most people we engaged with did not see the church as something that could help the community, but as something distant. It opened conversations about what the church is called to do, and helped to challenge people's views on what church is. The feedback we got from people has also helped the churches in the area to know better how to focus their ministry.

Adding value

This style of outreach also provides a platform to engage with people. You can build a conversation around a basic structure, without feeling awkward. It gives the person you are engaging with something to respond to, rather than just going up to people cold.

Some people want to talk, others give quick answers. But all they say helps with focusing on the needs of the area, what to be pray for and how to engage with people. Those doing the questionnaire need to stop and listen to what's being said, as this is a key part of blessing people when doing evangelism – to listen to and not overwhelm them. This gives them value. That's what Jesus did with everyone He met: He gave them value, He listened and spoke into their lives where they were at.

Forever's Prayer team has loads of resources to facilitate prayer in this Olympic outreach season. Visit www.forever2012.com/prayer-support/ to check out what is available.