

LONDON TOWN

Forthcoming 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.

The latest gathering of Discipleship Training Schools (DTSs) organised by Forever reached the heart of the Olympics – London, when 216 people hit the streets with the good news of Jesus.

London 2012 is coming! That was the real sense of the DTS Gathering held in the Bethnal Green area of London, 5–12 November 2011. To be doing outreach with the Gherkin and Canary Wharf as a backdrop, and within a metric mile race of the Olympic Park, gave everybody a real sense that the big one is coming. As one DTS trainee said: “I loved going to the Olympic Park – I really felt God there and it was awesome to see it and pray over it.”

To see God move in this area of London, to meet people in the vicinity, to prepare them for what He wants to do during 2012, and to reach out with the love of Jesus on the streets was so exciting. During the outreaches we could get a feel for the people, the culture, and what was going on, and get more of God’s heart for the place.



The usual suspects – and more!

The gathering featured all the usual suspects – worship, intercession, teaching, food, networking, sleeping on church hall floors, and lots and lots of outreach. As this is the evangelism week for the DTSs, the teaching on evangelism by different leaders within YWAM England covered topics such as What is evangelism?, How do we share Jesus? and Fear of the Lord.

One of the slight changes to the usual gathering format was that we had a time of worship and prayer-walking the



Testimonies

"I met a man treasure hunting and was able to talk with him, pray with him and hear his story. We told him how much God loved him and that he had a plan and purpose for his life. He came to the church the next day and we got to spend the free day with him and answer all of his questions and tell him more about who God is. At the end of the day, we were able to lead him to Christ!"

"During the dance outreach, the police came up to us and asked us what we were doing. We explained that we were raising awareness about social injustices. They told us to carry on, as they had no problem with that."

"This is just a glimmer of the year to come!"

"I have learned so much and it has been so exciting for me! I found myself being put in new situations that I would have never done, but it was great and I felt myself growing and learning from it all."



Wrexham, as well as Schools Of Evangelism from Carlisle and Norway. We were also honoured to have a number of visitors from the area during the week, including the Taboo Arts Ministry team from YWAM Notting Hill and a number of local pastors and church leaders.

streets on the Monday, before the majority of the outreaches started. It felt very right to fix our eyes on Jesus first and foremost and to be bathing the borough in prayer before taking the good news of Jesus out.

This gathering saw our largest number of schools at a gathering to date – ten. We had DTSs from Carlisle, Derby, Harpenden, Holmsted Manor, London, The King's Lodge, the *s/y Next Wave* (YWAM England and Marine Reach's ship), and

to meet the church leaders and to see them in action in their ministry, hear what is on their heart and see how we can serve them. They also had a chance to experience how a mission team could be plugged in to serve their ministry.

Church member Yasmine commented: "Thank you for coming to St Peter's this week! It's great to see the partnership and unity with churches to bring God's kingdom back into the East End of London. So

Kicking off with the Sports team

Rebecka Larsson, of *Forever's Sports team*, reflects on her highlights from the London DTS Gathering – and how a round piece of leather can be so attractive.

"My highlight was the sport outreaches – to see how God used young people to reach out with his love and truth.

"A group of eight people and myself took a football and walked to a park outside a college where we found a football pitch. After playing for ten minutes a group of college students came to join us. We played until it went dark, but meanwhile the pitch was full of players having fun. A DTS trainee and I had the privilege to have a good conversation with a Muslim guy about life and beliefs. We decided to come back the next day, hoping to meet the same group of people, and we did. The conversation continued and before we left we prayed for him and spoke some words we felt God had for him. He was amazed by our life stories about God's love, mercy and forgiveness, and he was a bit overwhelmed after we had prayed and shared God's words for him.

"It turned out that for the past couple of months none of these college guys had been playing football or hanging out in the park. When we came to play it was the first time they played together again – and none of them had planned to play football that day but for some reason they all showed up that afternoon!

"On the Friday afternoon we were privileged to be a part of pioneering a sports project. A guy from St Peter's Church has a vision to start a sport ministry, and we could help him to do the kick-off tournament in the hope of continuing to play football with the local kids."





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many great saints started in the East End – William Booth, Dr Barnardo’s etc – and so the flame continues to burn.”

Test run

The London gathering week was not only key for the trainees to be equipped and trained in evangelism, but also for us as a **Forever** team in preparation for 2012. We could see the week as a mini-Olympic outreach week, with opportunities actually to be in London doing the outreaches we planned. The week provided a great opportunity to see what things might look like at the outreach during the Games next summer. With over 200 people living in several churches and

halls, then coming together for most of the day before heading out in groups for outreach across the borough of Tower Hamlets, it was a good way to discover what did and didn’t work, and what we need to change or develop so that we reach out to London in a relevant way.

It was also a great way to build relationships with the local council. When the council workers saw and heard about our project and how we had served the community, they immediately opened up and offered their help so we can do more community outreaches in the future. They will also help us in the process of getting event permission in Tower Hamlets. This will open doors

“During my treasure hunt outreach my group talked to a homeless man and he asked us to pray for him to find a place to live. The next day another group found him and he told them someone had given him a flat!”

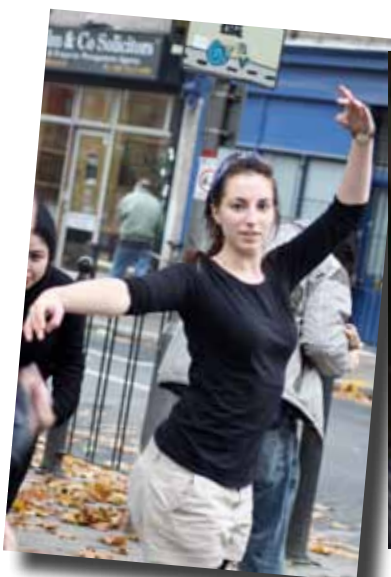
“On the treasure hunt one girl in our group got a Tesco location and a blue scarf, and I had a brown jacket. Lo and behold, we saw a lady in a brown jacket and blue scarf across the street from Tesco. We found out she was Catholic and we asked God to give us words of knowledge for her. God told me she had a passion for Arts, so I told her that and she said that was her career! We prayed for her sick father as well.”

“The ministry time changed my life!”

“God showed me that I have lots to give and will use me even if I don’t always see the outcome in people’s lives.”

“God set me free from the fear of man. I have a heart for Muslims, but I fear them because of some situations that had happened with me. But when Connie talked to me and prayed over me, I felt that there was breakthrough. I talked to three Muslim girls and they were open and I prayed for them. It was so good!”

“It is amazing to see the DTS come in and leave the gathering and see that evangelism is so possible. Seeing them step out and take new challenges. I feel that these weeks are very anointed in seeing people realise more of who they are in Christ.”



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"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity of being prayed for and prophesied over this morning. God did some deep healing of wounds in my heart and reaffirmed my calling."

"God really broke a lot of fear of man. Talked to a lot of people I normally wouldn't and broke my fear of talking to Muslims. God did so much in our students and in me, it is hard to articulate. Everything from prayer walking, evangelising to an angry Muslim man, and chatting with and praying with a man I befriended and God giving me a prophetic dream that came to pass and I got clarity. It was a very impactful week."

"I loved having so many people together – it is so neat to experience the body of Christ."

"On the treasure hunt, we talked to two guys sitting on a bench and got to pray for healing for one of them. He got healed from his back pain after two prayers and we didn't even lay our hands on him. He was so shocked and happy. We also prayed for his friend to quit smoking and he felt a difference afterwards. On our list we had a black jacket and a bench. They were our treasures tonight, and God's treasures every day."

"I am inspired to sharpen up as I am presenting the Gospel, especially linked to using God's Word as a two-edged sword where appropriate."

The day of new things

Among the things that **Forever** is seeking to do in this season of outreach is to broaden the types of outreach that we might use. Here is a selection of the outreaches we tried at the London gathering.

Create a Q

Create a Q gives people you meet a chance to express themselves by asking questions or making statements from a selection of pre-made laminated words on a mobile board. You can then answer their question. Great if you love to discuss deep topics and challenge the thoughts of others!



Before I die

Everybody has dreams and dreams are God-given. In this outreach you carry around mobile boards and encourage people to write down the dreams they want to see happen before they die. A platform to inspire conversations and create opportunities to pray for those dreams to come true.

Fancy a chat?

A simple but powerful outreach aiming to do nothing more than just love people, respecting and adding value to them as a person who has been created in the image of God. Sometimes people just need someone to acknowledge and listen to them: you could be that person. Several sofas were set up in an open space, as though in the lounge of a house or hotel. Passers-by would be invited to sit down, have a cuppa, chat and perhaps pray. The incongruity of a set of sofas parked randomly on the street or in a park is in itself enough to attract attention.

and give us amazing opportunities for next year's outreaches.

Outreach opportunities

This gathering was a step up from previous ones in terms of the number and quality of outreach opportunities we were able to offer. As the main outreach period (July–August 2012) has been getting closer, so each of **Forever's** focus areas has been developing more and more

outreach ideas. So this gathering was a good place to find out which types of outreach worked and which didn't, and also what could be improved for the big one next year.

It was also the first time that we have had a range of outreaches available in each of our focus areas, allowing us to check out how multiple focus area outreaches can work alongside each other.



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"God has been speaking to me about obedience and sacrifice, so I was encouraged by the number of times that God brought it up, especially when Connie was speaking, and at other times."

"I was so excited by the number of times that God led people to go and speak to this guy called Steve, who the vicar at St Paul's has already been in contact with. At least five of us have had good chats and contact with him. He has a Bible and asked for prayer that he would get lots from it. Karen and I were able to pray with him and he was very excited and said, 'it was the first time he had prayed.'"

"On Sunday night I prayed for someone's knee and it was healed of all pain."

"During the teaching, my view of evangelism changed and my fear of man has been broken. I am not frustrated anymore when I don't get to pray for someone and lead them to Christ. I am just happy to talk with them now."

"I struggle a lot with comparing myself to others, but I think God pointed that out and wants me to be happy about my own journey and taking one step at a time. Evangelism has become less scary for me, because now I've tried and been very practical. I was excited before the week, but also a bit nervous. I feel more courageous now. I enjoyed this week a lot, and great outreach prep, definitely!"



So, for example, on the Friday afternoon we held a number of Arts outreaches on Brick Lane, including fire-throwing, stilt-walking, wall-painting and graffiti, 'I'm sorry for ...' and 'Before I die', all within a hundred yards of each other. It was great to see how these different outreaches could work together, drawing a crowd and engaging people in conversations. Also, the range and saturation meant that passers-by were more likely to stop, look and

start a conversation.

So what were the other outreach opportunities on offer? As well as these Arts outreaches, other opportunities included litter-picking in the local park (especially after bonfire night!), treasure-hunting, prayer-walking, a football tournament, church decoration and renovation, after-school clubs, visiting the homeless, skateboarding, basketball, detached youth work, dance, drama, helping in local

More days of new things

Here is a further selection of the outreaches we tested during the London gathering.

Dance/Arts event

Our "Who's Talking About ..." dance outreach combines ballet and hip hop with people silently posing on the streets. We want to push the public to recognise how easy and comfortable it is to be silent about injustice and that though we know it's going on, we often pretend not to. Groups of three or four people silently pose with duct tape over their mouths and holding signs saying, "Who's talking about ..." plus statistics on injustices that will take place specifically during 2012 followed by simple signs saying, "But Jesus is hope". The dancers give two minutes of simple choreography along the theme of the statements. When the dance is finished, the dancers then also hold "Who's talking about..." and "But Jesus is hope" signs.

I'm sorry for ...

Before going out, people write statements starting 'I am sorry ...' on pieces of cardboard. They then go and stand in silence on street corners and on pavements and hold their statement in front of them. In our London outreach, they stood on both sides of the street, and often it seemed that it was the number of them that brought a response: passers-by would get intrigued as to why all these people were standing there with these statements. That, plus the fact that one statement might catch one person's attention, but another would catch someone else's.



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"I have learned so much and it has been so exciting for me! I found myself being put in new situations that I would have never done, but it was great and I felt myself growing and learning from it all."

"God has given me great perseverance this week. He told me some amazing things through other people and He helped me making the step to talk to people on the street. God is also more and more confirming that I am going to be a missionary and evangelist."

"God made me bold. I don't fear anymore to go up to people and ask even: "Do you believe in God?" And my vision about evangelising people has changed! Thank you."

"I went out treasure hunting with a DTS student and we ended up walking for an hour before we found our 'treasure', who was an elderly lady outside a cafe. We got to pray for her and at the end she said she could feel God's presence. Yea, God!"

"I met Kefi in a pub in the afternoon. Started talking about God. Met him again later with treasure hunting. His appearance matched the list. Talked for a long time but very surface level. Got words of knowledge about him and his family. That really opened him up and he started sharing personal stuff, which was not usual for him. Prayed for Him – great!"



youth groups, hot chocolate and sofas in a park, "say one for me" prayer, picture hunting, light a candle, and ministry to the homeless.

As ever, it was wonderful to see God moving through the outreaches – to see Londoners hearing the good news, having their eyes opened to who Jesus really is, and in some cases reaching the point of deciding to follow Him. But it was also great to see how many of the DTS trainees had their preconceptions about evangelism blown away, and then how they were emboldened to go out and do evangelism on

the streets of our capital city.

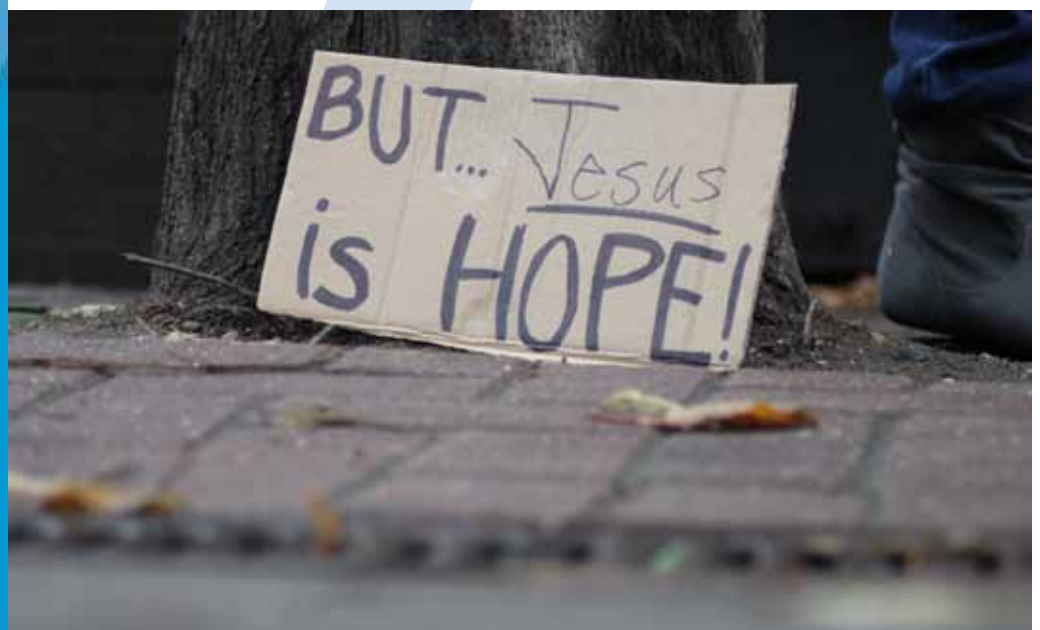
As a prelude to the summer of 2012, we have had a glimpse into the future.

The next DTS Gathering is in the Olympic venue of:

- **Coventry**
- **17-24 March 2012**

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

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www.forever2012.com • info@forever2012.com • +44 (0)1582 463322

Forever is a ministry of YWAM England & Wales and YWAM International.

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