

Winter Olympics: More Than Gold!

By Libby Quigg

Four churches in the Denton Baptist Association partnered to send a team of fifteen to the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.



Members from FBC Ponder; Northview, Lewisville; and Trail to Heaven, Aubrey joined the trip coordinated by FBC Denton. We

served with *More Than Gold*, an inter-denominational hospitality ministry originally formed by Southern Baptists in 1996. Our purpose was to serve the many cultures and peoples that had gathered in Vancouver for the games. By serving them, God's love was shared in a cup of hot coffee, a trading pin, or a pocket guide map.

We engaged people in the streets, transit stops, local churches, and while

waiting in line. At transit and shuttle stops to Olympic venues, our teams offered a cup of hot chocolate or coffee. Well before dawn,

we served from 38-pound thermal backpacks to spectators traveling to the snowboarding events on Cypress Mountain. It was always a joy to explain that it was a free and bottomless cup. Relationships were established with the staff and employees, as we showed up each day with joyful faces and hot coffee.



Our team also volunteered at a local church that offered free parking, a 20-foot HD TV, trading pins, and an internet café. It was en route to this location, that our team made its rounds to all of the staff and employees at various positions throughout the city. From North Vancouver to Richmond, we traveled on a bus, sea bus, sky train, and on foot. The long commute times were not



wasted for God provided many opportunities for us to engage in conversation with other commuters.

Vancouverites loved talking to us because of our funny accents! Weary travelers enjoyed talking to us because of our friendliness. Olympic spectators liked talking to us because we gave them free trading pins. On one bus journey, a sweet Vancouverite lady commented to me, "Never in my life have I heard so much talk and laughter on a bus."

At home in Texas, our team was four churches but on the mission field we were one team serving God. Upon returning home, I hope this is a synergy that we can continue to maintain. Let us never forget how effective we can be when we work together in the name of Christ!

