

Mobilising Churches to pray up to, during and after 2012

Oct 2011

More Than Gold is helping UK churches engage with their communities through the 2012 Games – using programmes of hospitality, outreach and service. This includes the time before, during and after the Olympics and Paralympics.

At the heart of it all is prayer. The More than Gold Prayer team – representing denominations and partner organisations of More than Gold – is working with other prayer ministries to make this a reality.

A Time to Shine – a call to pray for the Games and for the nations

We invite every church, group and organisation to explore creative ways to pray for all that will take place in the months leading up to, during and after the Games – praying locally but linking nationally. Praying that the presence of Jesus will fill every community; the power of the gospel will be released and many people will discover the truth about Jesus Christ and that God's purpose for our nations is fulfilled through the church working in unity in each community.

Churches have four seasons of opportunity to pray -

- **Shine for the New Year** - doing something during the week of 31 December to 8 January that works for you - as part of existing services or as a special evening, day or night to pray
- **Shine as the Flame travels** - taking part in a 70 day cascade of prayer as the Olympic Torch Relay comes your way between 19 May and 27 July. Plans for the Paralympic Torch Relay will be announced in December.
- **Shine during the Games** - Joining with prayer events around the UK during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, especially opening and closing ceremonies
- **Shine forever** – continue to pray, care and share the Good News and have a time of thanksgiving in autumn of 2012

A number of organisations are working towards making 2012 a year of prayer, justice and mission and More Than Gold will be a part of this.

We are encouraging prayer for:

The People

- Those involved in More than Gold
- Each member of Team GB and their families
- Our own friends, family and work colleagues
- The teams involved in local mission delivery

- Competitors and their families, coaches and international media from the 205 competing nations

The Planning

- More than Gold as it equips and resources for mission
- The London Organising Committee (LOCOG) as it delivers the Games
- Those involved in delivering local mission
- All the practical aspects of delivering the games
- For security at borders, airports, transport hubs and for police, armed forces and security teams

The Places

- Pre-Games training camps – where visiting nations will live and train
- Olympic and Paralympic venues and routes – information at www.london2012.com Details of where national teams are staying and training will go on the More than Gold website when available
- All Live Sites - where big screens will be used
- Local parks, sports fields, community centres
- Relay stopping places for the Olympic Torch

Pray also for **justice issues** (human trafficking, prostitution; homelessness; fair trade and the environment represented by different More than Gold teams) and **legacy issues** beyond the Games.

Prayer resources:

The More than Gold website will offer:

- Prayer points for More than Gold and its mission
- Creative ideas for small groups and churches
- A guide on how to pray and engage with the Torch Relay prayer chain
- Links to other prayer websites and resources
- Information on special prayer events as they are organised
- *Prayer for Today* (United Christian Broadcasters) will carry information and prayer themes in print
- The London 2012 website has all information relating to the delivery of the Games. www.london2012.com

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