



CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of Denton Baptist Association
Volume 44, Issue 3 • March 2010

940.498.5200

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!



Leading Forward: A Person's Story makes a Difference

Dr. Gary Loudermilk



In twenty-six and three fourths seconds, Alexandre Bilodeau was transformed from just another 22 year old skier on the Canadian

2010 Winter Olympic team to the hero of Canada. Alexandre gained his new found status by winning the gold medal in the Men's Mogul. While a gold medal in the Olympics is always a high achievement, his victory stands out because in three winter Olympics held in Canada, he became the first Canadian to win a gold medal in Canada. Since his win, the Royal Canadian Mint and the Canadian Post have announced plans to issue commemorative coins and stamps in his honor. Marriage proposals have flooded in on Twitter for him. But Alexandre's story is more than 26 seconds of mogul magic. His story really

began when he was a hockey hopeful at the age of 7. The burden of travel to the arena for practices and games while also caring for Alexandre's brother Frederic, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and his younger sister Beatrice became too much for his Mother. She decided it was time to change to a more family participating sport – skiing. A year later, Alexandre had discovered a dislike for downhill skiing, but a real joy in going off jumps. At age 15, inverted aerial jumps were approved for moguls and Alexandre found his new sport. At age



18 he participated in the 2006 Olympics but experienced a disappointing finish because of a fall. Looking back today, a mother's decision fifteen years ago and hard work by Alexandre on the moguls for the past seven years worked together to result in 26 seconds of mogul magic. His brother Frederic was at the finish line to embrace his long time hero and the new hero of Canada. Thousands of Canadians filled the BC Place for the medal ceremony joining Alexandre Bilodeau in a celebration of victory and Canadian pride.

There are so many stories attached to each of the Olympic athletes from all of the participating countries. While I love the excitement of the games and the intensity of the competition, the stories of the athlete's sacrifices

and relationships within their families, and their victories over adversity are what draw me in to watching the coverage of certain events. I would not have watched the Men's Moguls had it not been for the human interest story of Alexandre and his love and devotion for his brother Frederic. Stories, like the one of Alexandre Bilodeau, cause me to be able to cross the lines of national representation to cheer for those who have shared a part of their lives with the watching world. In Alexandre's story, he changed from being a fantasy athlete to becoming a real person in a real world.

The Olympics are not the only venue where the stories of participants make

a difference. While we may have forgotten from days gone by, the stories of people have always made a difference in our lives. For those who grew up going to church, Biblical stories involving people are some of their earliest childhood memories. A testimony or personal story of a believer of how his or her life was changed by Jesus has often rekindled one's own personal relationship with God.

Relationships develop between individuals as they share their life stories. Often it takes a lengthy period of time for the story to unfold and a sense of friendship and openness to develop. And yet, it is time that is spent sharing one's story and hearing the story of another that will someday open the door to sharing God's story.

As much as I enjoy the stories of the athletes of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, I am reminded that my life has been shaped through the stories of many non-athletes who ran well the race of life. Likewise, I have experienced those special times of slowing my schedule down and taking the time to simply listen to the story of one whose life was in turmoil and confusion. Through the relationship that developed from taking the time to listen, an opportunity was provided to speak. How thankful I am for the stories of people that have helped to shape and change the lives of others. How hopeful I am that we will find more opportunities to hear the stories of others in our church gatherings and to take the time to listen to those we need to reach.

Baptist Student Ministry

UNT Campus Outreach

February has been an exciting month. We continue to see new students come and get involved. On Feb. 16, we hosted an *Open Mic Missions Nite*, which provided a great opportunity to meet new students while raising money for missions. On Feb. 18, our 11 small groups each came up with a campus outreach event so that they could impact the students around them.

Spring Break Mission Trips

On March 13, two teams of students will be leaving to go and serve during Spring Break. One group will be partnering with other BSMs across the state for *Beach Reach* in South Padre, TX. The other will be going to Breckenridge, CO to partner with Agape Fellowship Church to help them minister to their local community. Please be praying for our students as they travel and invest in the people they meet.

Missions Fund-Raiser - Pizza Inn, March 7!

On March 7, we will be having a missions fundraiser at Pizza Inn on University (across from Kroger) from 5-9 pm. Bring your family for dinner after church and let them know you are there to support the UNT BSM and 10% of the sales receipts will help send student missionaries through *Go Now Missions*.

TWU Mission Trips

The TWU BSM will be taking two mission trips during Spring Break this year. One group will be going to Houston to work with the Bhutanese refugee population in Houston to show them the heart and purpose of Christ. Pray for this group as they serve March 13-19, 2010. The other group will be going to Vancouver Canada to work with the 2010 Paralympics. Pray for this group as they are serving alongside our friends in Vancouver March 13-20, 2010.

REZ Week is coming!

The week leading up to Easter (March 29 - April 1) is a special time on the collegiate campus. We will be doing a variety of things to help share God's love and message of eternal life in Christ! In addition to having a cross displayed in the center of campus, we will have other events to share with students. If you or your church is interested in helping to provide any breakfast items (like cereal bars, muffins, etc.) that we can give out on campus to use as publicity and conversation starters, we would love to partner with you. Call us at 940-382-5241 or email us at twubsm@gmail.com

Again, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to see what God will do on our campus and in our community!

MARCH

- 4 Vision Focus Team, 12:00 PM
DBA Office
- 15-19 Spring Break
DBA office OPEN
- 23 Connection Articles Due
- 28 Associational Bible Drill
Dallas Association

Staff Changes

Ricardo Barbee has been called as youth minister at **Rock Hill, Aubrey**.

Angela Hamby has been called as associate youth at **Rock Hill, Aubrey**.

Barry Keldie has resigned as pastor at **Providence Church, Frisco**.

Randy Bland has resigned as Jr. High minister at **Rock Hill, Aubrey**.

Chris Barfield has been called as children's minister at **FBC Denton**.

Chris Burrus has been called as associate youth minister at **FBC Denton**.

Preston Harrison has resigned as pastor at **Spring Hill, Aubrey**.



Connections

(USPS 106550)

Published monthly by
Denton Baptist Association
1406 N. Corinth St., Ste. 408
Corinth, TX 76208-5448
Periodical Postage
Paid at Denton, Texas

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to the above address

Buckets of Hope for Haiti



The Texas Baptist Men along with North American Mission Board (NAMB) are sponsoring a program called ***Buckets of Hope*** to help feed the people of Haiti. The ***Buckets of Hope*** consists of a plastic five-gallon

bucket packed with selected food items which will feed a family for a week.

The Texas Baptist Men and NAMB are asking individuals, groups, companies, and churches to help with this mission project. Both BGCT and SBTC are helping to support and encourage this relief effort. The following website will explain the ***Buckets of Hope*** ministry:

<http://www.bgct.org/texasbaptists/page.aspx?&pid=6581>

Collection Centers:

March 8 is the deadline for all buckets to be delivered. The following churches have agreed to serve as drop off points for ***Buckets of Hope***:

- **First Baptist Church Lewisville**
Contact [Judge Camp](#) to schedule delivery
972-415-1504
- **First Baptist Church Ponder**
Contact [Brenda Davidson](#)
940-479-2455
Deliveries taken from 8 AM - Noon, Mon.- Fri.
- **First Baptist Church Sanger**
Contact church office: 940-458-7920
Deliveries taken from 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.

Food Item List

The food items can be generic store brand items. Do not substitute any items listed and do not add additional items. A video is available at the BGCT site for specific packing instructions.

(The estimated cost for each bucket of food is \$30 plus an additional \$10 to help cover the cost of shipping.)

Update: Due to the demand for buckets, many stores have run out of white buckets. Buckets of any color without any writing on them are now acceptable.

- 2 - 5-lb. bags long grain enriched rice
- 1 - 48-oz. plastic bottle cooking oil
- 2 - 2-lb. bags dry black beans (can substitute with red beans)
- 1 - 5-lb. bag of all-purpose flour (not self-rising)
- 1 - 20-oz. cylinder container of granulated white sugar (coffee service size)
- 2 - 1-lb. boxes of spaghetti noodles
- 1 - 2-lb. 8-oz. (40 oz.) plastic jar of smooth peanut butter
- 1 - 2-gallon plastic ziplock storage bag (used to wrap the bottle of cooking oil)

