

A combined churches initiative supported by



There are moments...

when you step in and you say "Yes!". You don't know all the ins and outs, but you sense He is beckoning, "Step out. Go beyond. Follow my lead. Expect. Stand in awe."

We saw Him move in mighty ways, in countless lives, across our city. From our Mayor to the athlete to the homeless man on the street. Not one missed His gaze.

We received a heavenly deposit of His heart and passion for our city.

Now we run!

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Unity in Diversity WENDY MANZO

PAINTED LIVE ON 1/1/18 AT EASTER UNITED



I began by writing UNITY across the canvas. This is the Lord's delight this day, that His church, His bride, have come together to celebrate His resurrection. We all have our foundation in the same living water, this is the artesian well underlying the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. We grow differently, old churches, young churches, traditional and contemporary, there's a place for everyone to worship. We make a difference to the world when we show our 'canopy', our unity in His love. His banner over us is love.



Rev. Tim Winslade CHAIRMAN, BEYOND GOLD GC

In 2014 several interested parties representing the Gold Coast church community attended the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games in an endeavour to see what was being done under the More Than Gold banner for that event. This group, led by Pastor Shayne Cunningham, returned with the desire to see a similar platform built for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. After dialoguing with the More Than Gold organisation, it became apparent that the way forward was to forge a locally based organisation, drawing on More Than Gold resources, but independent in its structure. This was the beginnings of Beyond Gold GC Inc., that started with those who attended the Glasgow event, plus others who God led to be part of the team.

Those early meetings set an agenda that was not specifically focused on the Commonwealth Games as an event, but rather a launch pad for initiatives that would leave a lasting legacy for the churches of the Gold Coast in a variety of ways. Several areas were identified as key focal points, including prayer, evangelism, street chaplaincy, children's and youth ministry, homestay, social justice, community festivals and media.

Initially there were productive conversations with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC), who were interested in the community engagement of some of our ideas. However, as GOLDOC grew and staff changed, these conversations became less productive, but as one door closed, God would invariably open up other opportunities.

Several key members of our committee attended almost every monthly meeting for more than 3 years, while others joined in along the way, as we always desired to network with individuals and organisations that felt to partner with us. Then in late 2015 we began to have a conversation with Juice1073 about the possibility of bringing our Beyond Gold GC organisation under the Juice1073 banner, so that there would be a vehicle to coordinate the efforts of those who wished to continue to work on the legacies beyond the games period and into the future. This partnership became an important piece of the puzzle for what has happened since and what will continue into the future.

Our experience was unique. Although we borrowed ideas from other sporting outreaches, there definitely was a local flavour. The foundation of prayer and worship, across the city and beyond laid a platform for all of what was achieved. In the end, much of what we set out to do happened to some degree, as the reports testify, by the grace of God. However, there were also some key initiatives that were birthed specifically out of this journey, like Easter United and the World's Longest Prayer Chain.

It is also important to identify the sacrifice and energy put in by key members of our team, who carried much of the communication and organisation. Add to that, the many people who contributed their time, energy, creativity and resources to forge partnerships and ministries that will bear fruit for God's Kingdom well into the future. All we can say to you all is thank you, your efforts have not gone unrewarded!

Looking back, we realise that much of what we set out to achieve four years ago has been realised. It may not look exactly like what we thought it would at the beginning, but God did something new and for that we give Him the glory. Looking forward, we are excited to see what God will do to build on the platform that has been created, because it has always been about Beyond Gold (Coast 2018).

God bless, Rev. Dr. Tim Winslade Chairman, Beyond Gold GC



Hayden Whitworth CEO, JUICE 107.3

What a privilege to see the Church working in all its diversity and splendour and at such a poignant moment for our city and nation!

The Beyond Gold GC experience is one I know many of us will never forget, but perhaps more important than what has been accomplished... is what it has started!

From the outset, those who pioneered and established Beyond Gold GC had a clear sense that this was to be more than an event or a series of initiatives... that somehow what was to happen here would have a legacy that would be carried forward and impact many thousands more lives in the future.

While others were focused on the infrastructure legacy that the Games would leave in buildings and facilities, this amazing group set their eyes and hearts on a cultural legacy that would rest in the hearts of the people.

So as we reflect with thankful hearts and slightly exhausted bodies on everything that has just happened among us, let's honour that original vision and lean expectantly into the idea that this may in fact not be the end, but the beginning of something. That what we've seen so far is just a small taste of what God might be calling us to next!

There is no greater cause than the cause of Christ, no more capable organisation than His Church when it responds in unison to His call, and no greater privilege than to find our place in the incredible life-changing and world-shaping work that He has purposed us to be part of.

Thank you for the incredible privilege that it has been to walk some of this journey with you and for sharing these amazing stories of what He has done so far.

A city on a hill cannot be hidden, and the light you've helped to shine has been visible from distant lands. Well done and thank you!

Hayden Whitworth CEO, Juice 107.3

Mayor's Baptism BEYOND GOLD

WRITTEN BY SUE BAYNES



People love to celebrate and the Gold Coast was in full celebration mode over the two weeks of hosting the Commonwealth nations in the Games. The way a city celebrates is a reflection of the culture of the city so it was significant for us that we celebrated the Mayor's water baptism as a high point declaration of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over the Gold Coast.

Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, our righteous city leader, chose Resurrection Sunday to publicly declare his faith in Jesus Christ and to go through the waters of baptism. He could have done that in the privacy of his own swimming pool with a few family and friends. But no, in true Tom style, he said, "there's a lake right next to the Amphitheatre, that's where I want to be baptized, so that everyone can be there ...

1st April, 2018

Today I declare to you that I love our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us all. In doing so, to the rest of Australia and the world, as we head into the Commonwealth Games, we're letting you know that we have a vibrant community that loves our Lord also.

With this message, the light that He shines on our city and the awakening of our city to the Holy Spirit, we can say, "Lord, this is your city!" We will share that with the rest of the world and who knows the number that will look towards Christ? Let this be just a part of that journey.



friends, family, the Church, the media, people from the Commonwealth nations - I want them all to witness my confession of faith in Jesus Christ."

He then made his confession of faith in Jesus before walking into the lake.

Jesus said in Matthew's gospel 28:18-20 - "Hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ: all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Mark this date down - Sunday April 1st 2018 - a new day for our Mayor, for the city, and for the Church of the city!



E A S T E R UNITED

1 April 2018







For the first time in 20 years, nearly 100 Gold Coast churches gathered together as one to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The crowds flocked in early to HOTA (Home of the Arts) and there was an incredible sense of joy and excitement in the air. It felt like the Christians of the city were saying a loud collective 'Yes and Amen!' to this unprecedented expression of unity.

The idea of a unified Easter Sunday celebration was birthed in prayer with a passionate growing team led by Len Rossow (Prayer Coordinator, Beyond Gold GC). Throughout 2017 and early 2018, traditional and contemporary church pastors joined in to help shape a celebration that reflected the diverse flavours of faith across the city. What resulted was a powerful and creative expression celebrating Jesus.



- 3,500 attended
- 4,700 viewed the Facebook live stream
- 110 performers (local and international)
- 175 volunteers from Gold Coast churches and the community
- 1 paid contractor
- 100 churches involved
- 10 business sponsors

- 9 food vendors
- 20 security staff
- 200 Bibles distributed
- 200 hands raised in response to the salvation call.
- King's Christian College and Emmanuel College provided buses for transport
- 1000 people traveled by bus with 28 bus runs in total

I AM EXCITED... THIS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL EXPRESSION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE CITY AND IT'S JUST PART OF THE DREAM WE'VE HAD FOR SO LONG. IT'S JUST WONDERFUL TO SEE.





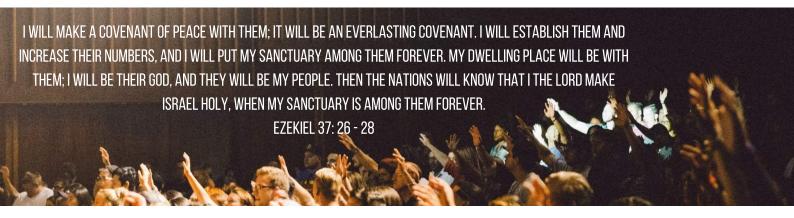
Prayer Initiative **BEYOND GOLD**

LED BY PASTOR LEN ROSSOW

This is indeed a new day for the Gold Coast! We celebrate a great movement forward in terms of the unity of the Church in the city and a new boldness in sharing our faith. Our prayers were answered in awe-inspiring ways.

The Games themselves were a great success. A highlight was the warm, friendly and peaceful atmosphere over the Gold Coast, be that in the Athletes Village, the venues or out in the streets and celebration sites.

There has been a tangible sense of the Lord's peace and presence over the city. Ezekiel 37:26-28 was given by Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Adelaide as they prayed for the Gold Coast during the Games.



TRAINING & DEVELOPING A CITY WIDE INTERCESSOR NETWORK

Training Watchman School of Intercession (from the Australian Prayer Network)

2016

Foundation School 80 participants, 34 completed DVD School 37 participants, 16 completed

Retreat Day: Prophetic Art / Prophetic Declaration/ Prayer Walking 30 participants

2018

DVD School 9 participants, 4 completed

COMBINED CHURCH GATHERINGS

Worship & Prayer		2017	
		Vibe Church	50 people
2016		Dream Centre	50 people
Newlife Uniting Church	350 people	Crosslife Baptist	55 people
Reedy Creek Baptist	80 people	Surfers Paradise Anglican	20 people
Living Word Lutheran	40 people	Nerang Seventh Day Adventist	50 people
		_	
		2018	
		Ashmore Uniting Church	50 people

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

2016

May 37 people from 22 churches Dec 91 people from 37 churches

2017

April 100 people from 46 churches (Intercessors)

June 20 people (Worship Leaders)

Oct 40 people (Artists & Worship Leaders)

Nov 108 people from 45 churches (Intercessors)

2018

Feb 100 people from 43 churches (Intercessors)

CITYWIDE INTERCESSORS

LIFT HIM UP WORSHIP & PRAYER NIGHT

2016 50 people2017 50 people70 people from 17 different churches

GOLD COAST HOUSE OF PRAYER

The Gold Coast House of Prayer consisted of a faithful team of eight intercessors from five churches and approximately 20 other intercessors who supported our strategy. We came together for listening-prayer gatherings at various times throughout the four years in the lead up to the Games.

24/7 PRAYER CANOPY OVER THE GOLD COAST

43 Gold Coast Churches engaged



QUEENS BATON PRAYER WATCH

- 388 days, 70 nations and 8 states and territories of Australia
- This included 172 cities, towns and suburbs including Brisbane, Logan, Mt Tamborine and the Gold Coast
- Supported by Global Watch, Australian House of Prayer for all Nations (Adelaide),
 Gold Coast House of Prayer, Surf City 24/7 Prayer Tower, Australian Prayer Call, 40
 Days Prayer Relay and many houses of prayer and churches around the nation.

PRAYER WALKING GAMES & CITY SITES

June 2017

Prayer teams went and prayed over Metricon Stadium, Gold Coast Aquatic Centre and CBus Stadium

March 2018

Prayer teams made up of people from 16 churches were able to cover railway stations, Games village, stadiums and venues, shopping centres, Gold Coast Airport, Southport Broadwater Parklands and Cavill Mall.



40 HOUR PRAYER WEEKEND

This powerful weekend involved 45 intercessors from Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Noosa, Adelaide and Perth and 35 intercessors from the Gold Coast.

Continuous prayer was led by eight teams of 10 covering 32 sites across the city. This included nine Games venues, gateways, transport hubs, YWAM outreach location at Jack Evans Harbour, Amphitheatre including prayer with the Mayor, social justice issues including homelessness, human trafficking, indigenous reconciliation and ice addiction.

At most of the Games venues, security personnel briefed us on particular aspects of the venue with many happily allowing us to pray with them. Local people briefed our team on homelessness issues, indigenous reconciliation and ice addiction.









GO FOR GLORY - 24/7 PRAYER & WORSHIP

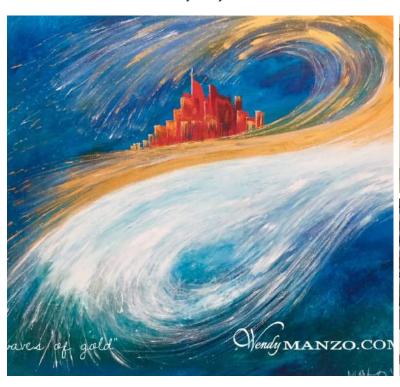
- A 24-hour roster of Worship and Prayer cover during the Games at three locations -Gold Coast House of Prayer, Surf City Prayer Tower and Life Development Centre.
- 250 people involved in the corporate gatherings
- 26 different worship sets
- Four intercessors from Adelaide, SA, one from the Barossa Valley, SA, two from Orange, NSW and one Sydney praying through the night watch.
- Some 30 individuals praying at home
- 20 churches as part of ongoing 24/7 prayer canopy

Art Celebration **BEYOND GOLD**

LED BY CORINNE PENNAY

If you pray and God gives you a clear vision, He faithfully shows you what to do and you walk in it. This is our testimony! The journey of seeing the Lift Him Up Art Celebration come alive across our city was incredible and all glory goes to God.

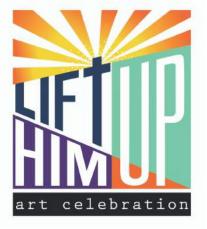
One of the prayer points for the 24/7 Prayer Canopy going back to September 2017 was for the emergence of the hidden gems in the arts and entertainment sphere in our city. God brought the right people across our path, doors just opened and the Holy Spirit led us to continually say 'Yes!' where favour had made a way.







The Stats



- 40 volunteers involved, mainly from the Gold Coast
- Approximately 50 performers across venues
- They came from around Queensland,
 Melbourne, Sydney and Canada
- Six teams of live artists
- Six sites across the Gold Coast
- 16 prophetic artists
- Two weeks of art exhibitions, live art, live music and flash mobs
- Two pieces of prophetic art positioned in the Multi-Faith Centre of the Athletes Village

We certainly did feel like we were out of our depth but God did not let us down. We knew this was our time to step out in our city and we certainly didn't want to miss the moment.

From shopping centres to art galleries to open-air stages, **Christians were bringing their** creative expression and the presence of God into public spaces across the city. It could be described as an awakening, both for the Christians and the audiences watching them.

Shopping centres provided a space for artists to exhibit their work, as well as paint live to worship music by Christian musicians. **This beautiful atmosphere stopped many in their tracks** as they stepped into a space filled with His presence and we would see the peace of God touch them.

It's incredible what happens when we step out of our usual comfort zone and see God move, simply by being present. One story illustrates this well.

We had live music happening at The Strand, Coolangatta for the two weeks of the Commonwealth Games. A local worship pastor, who plays clubs and pubs on the Gold Coast, was scheduled to play. Not long after starting he was joined by another Christian musician who happened to be walking by and they started playing worship songs together. A security guard at The Strand, also a Christian, then prayed for someone who couldn't walk properly and this led to a group of people praying for a terminally ill girl, who gave her life to Jesus.

There are many other stories likes this. As we position ourselves in a new way, God is more than ready to move through us to touch lives!

We have a lot of musicians and artists who have been so impacted by what they experienced, they don't want to stop! They are looking for opportunities to continue to be present in the marketplace and provide a space for people to encounter Him.









WORLD'S LONGEST

PRAYER CHAIN





LED BY BEN THOMPSON, YOUTH PASTOR, BEACHSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



- 57,070 individual prayers
- 5.14 kilometres of prayer chain
- 30 different groups
- 5000 people directly involved in the effort from around the globe.

What started as a thought 'How can we give glory to God during the Games?' turned into a world record attempt! We saw it as a once in a lifetime opportunity to link with other people of faith and forever be remembered as a people united in prayer.

This was a youth-led movement, which began on the Gold Coast and was based on the simple belief that there is power in prayer. This is why we pray with our spouse, family, church and across denominations, because we believe and have seen great moves of God through unity in prayer.

From youth camps to school chaplain conferences, to churches and communities across Australia and other countries, people shared their prayer requests and revealed their heart aches, challenges and hopes with us. We had but a glimpse of what God must receive all the time, as we seek His wisdom for our unique circumstances.

During the Games our street teams engaged with locals and international visitors to receive their prayer requests. Many people were deeply touched and grateful to share their burdens and receive prayer on the spot, as well as add their prayers to the growing chain.

The Worlds Longest Prayer Chain is now heading to Sri Lanka and will form part of their Inter Church Games, a unity event for the churches there. Church leaders throughout the provinces have already started collecting prayers!







LED BY KEVIN STICKL, DIRECTOR, YWAM NATIONAL CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

We had so many radical Jesus lovers out on the Gold Coast during the Games. God had given us the picture of a large net, representing every church and ministry joining together and the anointing coming on our unity during this time. It was wonderful to see the different ministries out in the streets sharing the good news of the Gospel with people.

Before the Games, we had national intercessors come to the park where the outreach was located and their sense was that God would rend the heavens and pour out His Spirit abundantly over this city. The testimony from our team and others across the city is that He certainly did! We are in a key time, the scriptures call it a kairos moment which is defined as a right, critical or opportune moment. Be encouraged, the Father Himself wants to see His Kingdom come and He invites us to co-work with Him.



- 360 YWAMers participated (90% of the people were from other nations)
- 7000 Bibles distributed
- 6500 flyers
- 10,000 meaningful conversations
- 1 baptism
- 30 performances at Jack Evans Park, Street Parties and music around the city
- with 150 300+ community members in attendance

16 ministry teams were involved in the following:

- Sports activities, kids activities; face painting, balloon animals, kids games (30 hrs worth)
- Street Chaplaincy
- Performances; music, drama, spoken word
- Leadership talks

- Serving with Red Frogs, Chaplaincy Service for Athletes
- Provided many performances for the Southport CBD Street Party
- Sharing life and hope with people

Partnerships with Churches / Organisations:

- Elevation Church provided us with accommodation
- Hannah Johnson (Sports Chaplaincy Australia) and Angie Brown (ChaplainWatch) delivered training for YWAMers in Street Chaplaincy
- Partnered in Street Chaplaincy with Pastor Rob Davey, Eternity Church & QLD Bible College Students
- Bible Society Australia provided Gospels of Luke
- 47 "Discovering Jesus" booklets supplied to YWAM for follow up in outreach
- Lift Him Up Art Celebration













LED BY PHIL HAWLEY, GIDEONS, GOLD COAST

We had **98 Gideon members** from every mainland state participate in our witnessing blitz which kicked off in a small way on Easter Saturday. Since then, **10,180 scriptures** have been given away, including the 380 full Bibles and 400 Testaments that went to the Multi-Faith Centre in the Athletes Village. We also saw several hundred given away in Townsville and Cairns.

We know of **7 salvations on the streets** of the Gold Coast and 1 in Townsville. There were many hundreds of one on one conversations, several re-commitments and numerous lives eternally changed. **God's favour has been upon us** as there were no concerns expressed to us by authorities and our interactions with them were all positive. Several security guards and other officials including one very prominent person, gladly received Testaments and a word of witness.

We know that a significant number of the scriptures that we gave away are even now headed to the four corners of the globe as athletes and visitors return home.

Many of our members have been profoundly impacted by what they have experienced as they have stepped out in faith.

Testimonies from the Gideons team



I met a man who came from a Catholic background, but had no connection (with his faith) for 20 years. He'd been thinking about reconnecting with church and only just yesterday had been talking with a friend about world views and philosphies. He'd also been thinking he needed to get a Bible... and here I was giving him one! A random accident? I assured him that God cared for him and was calling him.

Testimonies from the Gideons team...

I sat and waited for God to bring someone over and a man joined me after his swim. I asked how he was and he said "Do you really want to know?" He shared that on four occasions he had nearly died, one of which he went to the gates of heaven and was told he couldn't go in. He wanted to know what that was all about. He was fascinated to hear that being a Christian involved having a relationship with God, which he hadn't realised.

We engaged with a young couple sitting on a park bench. She had studied philosophy and thought there were many different truths but her boyfriend agreed that there had to be an ultimate truth. They knew very little about the Gospel but were very interested. They accepted the Testament and promised to read and consider Jesus' claims.

We sat on a park bench with a couple who had been together 13 years and had just set the date to get married. I talked about the pressures on marriage today and shared on the three strand cord that is not easily broken, meaning the two of them with God in the middle! We explained the Gospel to them and they readily accepted a Testament each. They were most impacted by the fact that we had been married for 50 years and were still best friends!

I met a cleaner at a shopping centre on her lunch break, originally from Vanuatu. I offered her a Testament and she started to cry, as she'd recently been robbed and had been praying God would provide her with a small Bible!



Outreach Scriptures

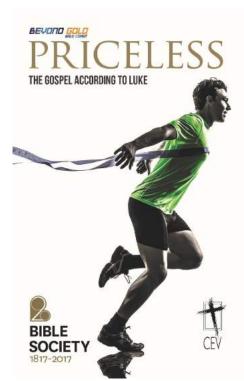


A huge thank you to the Bible Society of Australia for creating and printing Priceless - a special edition of the Gospel of Luke for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which included testimonies of athletes as they learn to walk with God through every high and low.

In a high pressure environment like the Games, a word of hope and encouragement is always welcome by those athletes who have arrived at a pivotal moment in their career. We were pleased to hear several reports from Sports Chaplains, of the demand for scriptures during the Games and the opportunity they had to introduce some athletes to the Bible for the very first time.

We also had several churches and ministries, both on the Gold Coast and interstate, request copies of scriptures to share as part of their outreach initiatives.







20,000 Gospels of Luke were provided to
20 Churches
7 Outreach Ministries
2 Individuals

Sports Chaplaincy **BEYOND GOLD**

STORIES FROM THE ATHLETES VILLAGE

STEVE JONES
BAPTIST MINISTER FROM LEITH, SOUTH WALES
& CHAPLAIN. SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK



Steve was part of a team of international chaplains working with local Australian chaplains taking care of athletes during the Games. They were based in the Athletes Village.



We have those athletes that are coming back into the village and they've had unexpected joys and we rejoice with them. We have those who are crestfallen and disappointed - we've had lots of tears, lots of cup of teas and reading of the Psalms to comfort those who are brokenhearted.

Athletes often come along to visit with us after the training and competition is over. They want to know why chaplains are in the village and are ready to explore things with us. It's a joy to have a conversation with someone who has no idea what chaplaincy means and to be able to explain we are here to support people spiritually.

I've been particularly encouraged by the number of people who were completely unchurched and came back for conversations. I ask if they are open to me reading from a few scriptures and they say "What is the Bible?" and I'd share that Christians believe this is the Word of God and there are words in here that can encourage you through the toughest of times.

I can identify with them. I was a rugby player when I was young and my family never went to church. I never met a Christian all the 18 years that I loved Rugby back in Wales. My heart is that the worldwide Church would see sport as a part of God's creation and bring it back under His redemption. We need to be in there bringing God's love and truth to redeem the world of sport.

NIKI OUDENAARDEN HEPTATHLETE - TRACK & FIELD FROM CALGARY. CANADA



Niki has overcome many obstacles along her journey as the Lord pursued her with His goodness and faithfulness. She experienced many, what Niki calls 'Godincidences' during the Games.



I was at a church meeting many years ago and the speaker pulled me aside and shared, "God has such a plan for you. I see you being in a major competition and you're going to be able stand there and say 'Christ in me and I am enough'". I just couldn't believe it. I'd had three surgeries, two concussions and I was mentally all over the place. Now here I am!

I was sitting in my room one night here (in the Athletes Village) and I was doubting myself. "Why am I here? What is the purpose? These athletes are amazing, some of them are Olympians, I'm not there yet". A prophetic word that I had recorded just happened to start playing on my phone at that very moment. I listened to it and at the end he said "You have a dream. Share the dream". Have you noticed the theme of the Commonwealth Games? I looked out the window of my room and there's a flag waving in the breeze with 'Share the Dream' on it. I realised there's a purpose and I'm here for a reason. I said, "Alright God, whatever you want from me, I'm here".

Every couple of days here, a God-incidence moment has happened. I've been bumping into Christians everywhere, from a barista, to a hairdresser to other team members who just 'felt prompted to come and talk to me'. God has been encouraging me the whole way and providing throughout all of this. I've learned I just need to be present, willing and waiting for what He wants me to do.

Things haven't gone the way I planned at the Games, but I've had girls contact me saying, "Thank you for being resilient and fighting through the competition, it gave me hope to get back into sport".

This whole experience has been totally eye opening. God exists! I've been in the darkest of dark and the lowest of lows and I've hated the sport and my faith. Now I want to be one of those milk-crate preachers and just shout it out!

Street Chaplaincy BEYOND GOLD

LED BY ANGIE BROWN, CHAPLAIN WATCH







The Stats

47 street chaplains spread across three areas during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Locations were Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.
Two shifts ran daily, 8.00 am - 1.00pm and 1..00pm - 7.00pm.
10-15 chaplains daily taking care of people on the street.
Averaged 10 hours a day across two shifts.

Averaging 12 chaplains a day, we did the following:

- a total of 120 on-the-street hours (12 days x 10 hours)
- 120 street chaplain hours a day (12 people x 10 hours)
- a total of 1,440 people hours (12 days x 10 hours x 12 people) across the Games
- averaged 30-40 conversations daily across all locations
- averaged 4-10 meaningful conversations a day
- estimated 60 meaningful conversations over the 12 days of the Games.

The situations we experienced daily:

- Directing lost people
- Assisting Games volunteers
- Talking with the homeless and elderly
- Connecting with local businesses
- Taking photos for people and then chatting with them
- Encouraging council workers / emergency services personnel
- Chatting with the locals
- Encouraging security guards
- Provided many referrals to local support agencies
- Assisting people with transport

The locals were super excited to see us and welcomed Chaplaincy with open arms. They offered us everything from free breakfasts to chocolates and water. Some off-duty police officers even asked if they could make a donation of some kind. The Officer in Charge of Queensland Ambulance for the area was also pleased to see us. He asked for my number so they could call us in if they were to come across people with low level anxiety that might just need some comfort and support. They asked US for this! To be received and valued so well by emergency services was such an honour for us.







We had many, many highlights during the Games. Some that included:

- A salvation.
- We met a person that had asked Jesus into their heart the day before. As they asked us questions, another came to hear what this man was talking about.
- People who had experienced trauma and needed someone to talk to. We were in the right place, right time.
- We had a trained therapy dog join the team. I watched as a grown man hugged the dog and fell apart saying "I just feel so loved in this moment" and "This is just what I needed". Police hugged the dog and got photos with it, as did many guests, she was a huge attraction.
- People who had been struggling with mental health opened up and shared their story.
- We prayed with many people for many things, from family situations, to work, and personal life.
- We found a foreigner who had run out of money, was sleeping in her car, and hadn't showered in days. We were in the right place, right time to offer her assistance.
- A young girl who was reconnecting with her father had struggled with self harming, and her brother had had Lukemia. We spent some time with the family.

- We saw a man's feet healed!
- We met an author in philosophy who shared with us that, "His mind was blown away (by the Gospel) and it had completely changed his thinking and he was going away to think more about that".
- Many asked if we would be back. A couple of locals in particular who had disclosed some struggles in life, asked if we would be coming back as they longed for follow up and on-going support. They weren't keen to access support services or to walk into a church but they longed for someone to meet them where they were at. (This is what is so powerful about street chaplaincy, meeting people where they are at).

Three people on team were so moved by the chaplaincy work they did on the ground they are considering a career change!

There are many, many more stories that could be told of how God's love was encountered by locals and visitors. Thank you to everyone that was involved, from the trainers to the volunteers to those who prayed.

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It's been amazing being able to serve this way. One man I met had been sitting on the same bench, in the same street, outside for 10 years. After a few days of trying to connect, he shared his whole life story with me and then I was able to have very meaningful conversations with him and share that God has a purpose for his life. I encouraged him to go to church and he did and had a wonderful experience with the people there. Now he's asking, "I wonder what God's plan is for my life?" He's really hungry.

- VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN BOB, EAGLEBY, QLD

Would you like to get involved?

We are exploring the future possibilties for Street Chaplaincy on the Gold Coast. If you would like to know more about this volunteer opportunity, please register your interest with us. Email streetchaplains@juice1073.com.au

Community Festivals BEYOND GOLD

Community Festivals can be a practical response to restore authentic community in local neighbourhoods. For the last 40 years, Fusion has seen Community Festivals deeply impact individuals and act as a catalyst for the transformation of towns and cities around the world. It has spread to 75 countries as the Global Sports Movement (GSM) has been using festivals particularly around major sporting events.

Beyond Gold GC was able to provide several training opportunities for Gold Coast churches to learn more about Community Festivals. Due to the time constraints, some churches were not able to organise their own festival to coincide with the Games, however will look for future opportunities to have an increasing presence in their immediate neighbourhoods.

GSM and Fusion have some fantastic resources available for those churches or ministry groups who are interested. For more information head to www.max7.org/en/library/festivalresources or www.fusionyac.org/ocf/index.php.

Trainer	Venue	Date	Attendance
Marty Woods	Juice 1073	Dec 17	9
(Global Sports Movement)			
Rohan Prowse	Eternity Church	Feb 18	6
(Global Sports Movement)			
& Bowen Miller (Anglican Church	Robina)		
Bowen Miller	Beachside Church	Mar 18	20
(Anglican Church Robina)			



A fantastic partnership between Beachside Church and Currumbin State School saw their very first Community Festival come together to coincide with the kick off of the Commonwealth Games. This partnership was forged through a positive relationship with the School Chaplain.

A team of 35 people helped run the Youth Games, an afternoon of fun and inclusive activities. Great technical support enabled the outdoor screening of the Games Opening Ceremony with around 150 people present, including many families from the local community.

After a successfull first Community Festival, the Beachside Church team are enthusiastic about hosting more events like this in their community in the near future.



LED BY DEAN HERRING, CHILDRENS TEAM PASTOR, CROSSLIFE - A BAPTIST CHURCH

"Ready Set Go!" was a children's ministry resource provided by Crosslife to equip churches to run a holiday club or similar event during the Commonwealth Games. The resources covered the full period of the Games so that kids would continue to have some Christian input based around the sports and the countries of the Commonwealth Games.

The Crosslife Kids Ministry team held a holiday club over the Easter/Games holiday period at a local high school. It was the second sports-based holiday club to be held between the first and second school terms, the first being in 2017 as a trial for 2018 for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Our aim was to strategically use the Commonwealth Games event and the related community events and involvement as a gateway to connect families. It was important to us that Ready Set Go! would not be a one-off holiday program but would be part of a strategy which included:

- the previous year's trial event;
- an Opening Ceremony Celebration; and
- a Crosslife baton relay event (run between the various Crosslife ministries and campuses).

As part of the plan to connect families in an on-going way, we set up and began running a weekly kids club at the beginning of the year. Hero Club is held each Friday at the Upper Coomera Campus, where we also held the Opening Ceremony Festival for the community and was the ultimate destination of the Crosslife baton relay.

Around 30 people from the church were involved in the various events and everything went well. We had approximately 45 children attend the sports-based holiday program and the teams all functioned well. The level of community engagement with the Opening Ceremony Festival was pleasing. The baton relay varied in its engagement but went particularly well in the final stages with buy-in from community families and church families alike.

A number of families who attended Ready Set Go! have already connected with Hero Club (and vice versa) which indicates that we are building on-going connections. The cross communication and momentum built in all areas has benefited each of the collaborating ministries in a sustainable ongoing way.



WRITTEN BY PIP NELSON

The Gold Coast Anti-Slavery Network is a newly formed group (Nov 2017) consisting of a number of organisations undertaking different types of work targeting issues or victims of slavery or exploitation. The network represents groups from multiple denominations and people from over 5 churches on the Gold Coast. They are involved in advocacy, public awareness and visits to exploited women.

The different members of the network continued and increased their existing activity over the Commonwealth Games period. Some volunteered with activities organised by GOLDOC for the Commonwealth Games, Bravehearts and Its a Penalty. Others ran advocacy campaigns on social media or offered services to women in potentially exploitative or slavery situations.

These groups activate Gold Coast volunteers to act locally to combat the global problem of slavery and exploitation. Over the Commonwealth Games period they increased their normal activity and engaged greater numbers of volunteers.

One group from the network worked with 11 local volunteers to visit, offer services and local connection to **approximately 16 brothels and met with around 80-100 women**. Many of these women were from overseas and their legal status was unclear, while they were also working in unlicensed brothels.

In these types of situations it is very common that women are coerced, tricked or forced into this work through a range of ways, especially debt bondage. This group creates a possible connection for women seeking a way out of their situation as they are often isolated from seeking help through other means.

We were able to engage with Gold Coast private businesses, especially those involved in tourism, to introduce **greater awareness and training for employees**. This helps businesses to be more proactive when they suspect exploitation and slavery may be happening near them.

We have also been able to engage key city stakeholders in a **potential future project** that could have a major impact on slavery and exploitation in the tourism industry and supply chains on the Gold Coast.



LED BY LEANNE ASHCROFT

The power of story and testimony has long been demonstrated. From Scripture itself to moves of God around the world over the eons, where debate and logical presentations fail - stories of encounter triumph.

They not only triumph, they disarm, they sneak through the cynical and doubting heart, they touch us afresh as they reveal - He really is that good. They demonstrate in tangible, taste-see-feel kind of ways that God is near and He's into the details. It's His thing. It's how He undoes you.

Throughout my time serving during the Games - I was undone all the time!

As my team and I roamed the city each day, seeking to capture what God was doing across all the volunteer teams during the Games, one thing was clear. **We had a privileged birds eye view of a move of God amongst us.** From the Mayor's bold declaration of faith before his public baptism to the gathering of 3,500 Christians for the first time in 20 years at Easter - something shifted in our city in that moment, as we were about the kick off the Commonwealth Games.

As I listened to volunteers share their stories, a theme began to emerge. As each one took their place, used their unique gifts, whether it be a Chaplain in the Athletes Village or an artist painting in a shopping centre, the Kingdom in them was unlocked and the people recognised it. As each one stepped out into public spaces they became the 'city on a hill, the lamp on the lamp stand' and the hungry and thirsty responded.

We did our best to work a 'media strategy' but in the end, it was no use. **We just had to respond to the moment, hit the record button and stand in awe.**

We'll continue to do just that, because this story is not over. Our eyes are open, we're awake to the moment we live in and ready to continue capturing the story of the Gold Coast as it unfolds.



There are so many people we would like to thank. From those who caught the vision four years ago, to those who joined later and brought their much needed talents and passionate hearts to take us to the finish line.

To Mayor Tom Tate and the Gold Coast City Council, we thank you for your support and encouragement for the vision of Beyond Gold GC.

Thank you to Pastor Shayne Cunningham for igniting the vision and Chairman Tim Winslade and Beyond Gold GC Committee who started the race long before many of us knew about it and partnered with God 'for such a time as this'.

To the Easter United Steering Committee, what can we say? An incredible moment for the Church of the city that has marked the start of a new era. Thank you.

A very special thank you to Gail Aiken, Project Manager, Beyond Gold GC who followed the Lord's promptings, arrived on our doorstep at just the right time and was instrumental in the success of Beyond Gold GC.

To each of the Project Leaders who inspired us with their vision, commitment and faith to see great things happen in our city - we celebrate all you are!

To partners and sponsors, thank you for your part in making Beyond Gold GC a success.

To Anna Watson, who stepped in at key moments for Beyond Gold GC to move us forward and brought much needed encouragement and prophetic insight along the way - love your work!

Hayden Whitworth and the Juice1073 team - what a joy to serve alongside you and share epic moments (like Easter United) along the way. The best is yet to come.

To the volunteers in all project areas - NOTHING, and we mean nothing would have happened without you. From the Gold Coast, Brisbane, around Queensland and beyond you came, you served and you loved well!

To every single person involved in this journey, whether large or small, know this - you have been part of a very significant moment in the Gold Coast. Something has shifted and we're only just getting started!

To our wonderful Father, who masterfully weaves our stories into the One story, we love you and marvel at the work of your hands. We say more Lord!

Compiled by

Leanne Ashcroft,

Media Team Leader, Beyond Gold GC

For any further questions or access to media from Beyond Gold GC please email leanne.ashcroft@juice1073.com.au