
In this issue: *A report of The Joshua Camp, evangelistic outreaches at the Olympic Games 2012 in London.*

Members of various catholic charismatic networks and organizations like RElaY, Kerygma (the catholic branch of Youth with a mission), European Network of communities (ENC) and of course of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) worked together at this unique event. The camp took place under the patronage of the bishops-conference of England and Wales and was organized mainly by the Sion Community partnered by leaders of RElaY and ICCRS.

200 young people, coming from 14 nations (mainly European nations but also from Canada, India and other places), came to be part of the Joshua-Camp and to evangelize during the Olympic Games.

Reach out to meet

After four days of intensive training and outreach preparation, small teams were sent out to different locations in London. In addition to “classical” forms of evangelism like street outreach, the teams also reached out to people while serving at local activities that were set up during the time of the Olympic Games. Face painting for kids, sports activities for teens and supporting local parishes in their projects were some ways we tried to reach out to meet and come in contact with locals as well as tourists and visitors of the Olympic Games.

A uniquely Catholic setting

We also experimented with something called “Nightfever” – a method of sharing the Gospel in a uniquely Catholic setting that is run in several nations already since the World-Youth-Day in Cologne 2005. Participants stood in front of Catholic churches holding little candles. Passers-by were then asked if they would like to accompany them into the church, light a candle and pray if they wanted to.

Bruce Clewett, one of the organizers, stated: “Believe it or not, hundreds accepted this unusual offer. Inside the specially-decorated church people lit candles and placed them on the steps leading to the altar as worship music softly played in the background. Our participants knelt next to the visitors and prayed quietly as these people simply basked in the presence of the Lord. One or two priests sat unobtrusively to the side and in the back of the church just in case one of the guests wanted to have a talk with them. One of the ‘rules’ was that

our participants weren’t allowed to get into extended conversations with guests until **after** they left the church building. It was amazing how many visitors wanted to do that. Some people went into the church for the first time in their lives. This – and the gentle presence of the Holy Spirit simply opened them up to God in a way that carefully-crafted arguments could not....”

Footwashing station

The highlight of the Joshua Camp was the large family festival that was hosted on the final Saturday of the outreach. Approximately 800 guests from every conceivable ethnic background came. Besides activities that are usual at a festival like this we also offered two more unusual ones: “Free prayer” by our participants for those who wanted to receive it and a footwashing station. A surprising number of people sat here as the young participants bathed their feet and, if they wanted, listened to them while they were sharing about the greatest Servant of all who washed his disciples’ feet as an example for us.

Such a project again

I think this was one the first time that Catholics participated officially in the outreach-activities during a major sport-event. The bishops and representatives of the church that came to visit us during the Camp encouraged us to share the Gospel in this secular world – and to reach out to the many people who desperately need God. The Camp itself was a blessing and a great success. I am curious when we will be able to run such a project again.

Christof Hemberger

This Info-Letter Eucrcil is free to all interested persons. Submit requests to kees@stucom.nl with the subject “Eucrcil” and this message: “Yes, put me on the mailing-list of Eucrcil-English or/and Eucrcil-Français.”

This Info-letter started in 1999 and is issued by the European sub-committee of ICCRS,

Chairperson: Christof Hemberger

Editor: Kees Slijkerman, e-mail: kees@stucom.nl

European web-site, including old ISSUES and some Spanish and Croatian translations of Eucrcil: www2.iccrs.org/europe