

Network 21 Missions - Culture Shock Trip

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2012



Church In The Wild - Culture Shock Team London

Culture Shock Team London has officially reached it's halfway point! The first 3 months have flown by while the last 3 months are coming even quicker! Since their departure in May, the team has made numerous contacts with local families, businesses and churches! They have been involved with many outreaches in the city of London and some outside the city. Since we don't have enough time or typing space to tell ALL the stories, we want to highlight a few of the BIG ones! We encourage you to follow each members blog to fully grasp their adventures and see how each person views the trip!

Highlights

One of the outreaches the team has done since week one of the trip is helping out and running LFC's (London Family Centre) Tuesday Free Coffee and Cake. LFC is a church located in Camden Town that has been ministering in the area and the team has partnered with them to help reach Camden Town! Through the Tuesday morning outreach, the team not only is connecting with the local church but the local people. They have made relationships that have opened doors to have conversations that may have never happened unless they were there serving with a servants heart!

The team was blessed with an awesome five bedroom house in a young family community called West Finchley. While trying to get to know their neighborhood and their neighbors, they had this creative idea to bake cookies and go door to door giving their neighbors homemade cookies. While doing this, they got to know several of their neighbors! Some of them were taken back by the random act of kindness and one couple said they'd lived there for seven years and never met any of their neighbors! One couple ended up inviting them to their house for a "London" home cooked meal.

The team had made friends with quite a few local young adults through church events and community events, and decided to invite all their new friends to the team house for an "American" BBQ! Through this, they were able to connect new friends that were believers with others that were not. They have had the opportunity to do this a few times so far and plan on doing more!

Another church the team has made connections with is the St. Barnabas church. They have connected with the young adults there and have had really good relationships come from it! They have even helped with events such as "July 4th American Day" contest. With the July 4th event, the locals dressed up in, what they thought, American attire. The team also dressed up and help with the judging. They have got to hang out and build lasting relationships with the young adults there.

One outreach some of the team members wanted to do was work in a local soup kitchen. Once they got there they found out the government does not allow visitors to volunteer to serve at soup kitchens. A month or so later, the team was asked to spend the day "getting to know" the people at the soup kitchen. This was a great chance for the team to give back to the community and the needy.

One of the biggest goals, if not the biggest goal, we had going into the trip was helping somehow in raising awareness of the global epidemic of Human Trafficking. Because of the seriousness of the problem and with the team not being locals, we were turned away by a few anti-trafficking organizations. Around the first of June I got the "green light" for the team to contact the globally known anti-trafficking organization called Stop the Traffik. They were able to make the connection and were invited to help out during the Olympics with the "Unwrapped" campaign. Stop the Traffik had huge gift boxes stationed all over London during the Olympics with statistics and other information about human trafficking posted inside to help raise awareness. The team had the opportunity to run a station for a week and made this global epidemic known!



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Continued...

The last week of the Olympics, we had the opportunity to partner with C3 Global with their event and outreach they had. C3 Global was started by Pastor Ed Young and is a relational network helping pastors get to another level of leadership. Their goal, while in London, was to connect US pastors with UK pastors and see how they could help each other get to the next level!

Prayer Requests

With the team at the halfway point, they have some new prayer request to add to the ones from the previous newsletter.

New Needs

- Pray for the LFC Tuesday morning outreach that God will continue to open doors for the team and the church.
- Pray for other outreaches such as: skate outreach, open mic events, St. Barnabas events, community outreaches, etc.
- Pray that the relationships they have built to continue to grow and more opportunities to come to share the good news.
- Pray that the team continues to see and be reminded of **ALL** the positive God moments. After being there for three months with three more to go, it is very easy for doubt to be planted.

Previous Needs

- Prayer covering for each team member - Jonathan and Vanessa Collins, Chuck Fowler, Ryan Graham, Richard Nesbit
- Financial Needs - Each team member is responsible for raising their own funds. We want to remind and encourage you to continue praying for the teams financial needs. There has been some monthly donations stop but we have had some start since the trip started. We know God is the provider of all our needs!
- Pray for the families of the team members
- Pray for God-moments during the trip
- Pray doors will open for a Network 21 Missions hub. One important thing the team will be doing is researching areas, outreach ideas and building locations so Network 21 Missions can establish a permanent hub, or base, in the London area. With a permanent base, we can host multiple mission trips cheaper and help make a difference in the city. (More information on Network 21 Missions hubs at the bottom.)

Praise Reports

There have been several answered prayers and praise reports! Here are a few of them!

- They have made more connections and relationships that have opened doors for them to do more outreaches and events than they have time for! Some of them, they decided to split up and help out with as many and they could!
- They have had the opportunity to have numerous conversations about God with the locals! From the relationships they've made with local commuter and local business people! The seeds were planted and now are being watered! We are anticipating the stories of people making life changing decisions!
- One of the main goals we had at the beginning of the trip was to video and record all the highs and lows and the trip, outreaches, events, etc. We didn't not have all the necessary equipment to do so when the team left in May, but someone donated the money for us to purchase the equipment and we sent it to them a few weeks before the Olympics! We now have video footage to document the trip!
- Some of the team members have had several miracles with their finances for them to continue on the trip! Like we said before, we know God provides all our needs and He has definitely proven that on this trip! Some expenses are not as high as we thought but some expenses have come up that we didn't anticipate. A testament of the relationships they are building with the local people, the team has been blessed several times by the locals and have been very grateful for that!

Please continue to support the team through prayer/financial support or any other way you feel led. Also, follow the team via their individual blogs, our social media sites or our website! If you would like to send the team or a member a postcard letting them know you're praying for them, here is the address:

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We appreciate you for being a part of this teams journey! The best is yet to come!

