DBU Team Travels to London Olympics

Every four years, the representatives from all over the world gather for the Olympic Games. This year, 11 DBU students and two staff members also used the opportunity to partner with a local British church, hosting events and sharing the Gospel on the 10-day trip.

Through members of the Greater Europe Mission, the team, led by DBU's director of Camp/Sport Ministry Jon Dooley and assistant director of Spiritual Life Whitney Cooper, was asked to serve with Gold Hill Baptist Church in Buckinghamshire, England, an hour from London.

Gold Hill, who hosted the DBU team, was one of seven churches partnering to host Run the Race, a project organized to serve the local community during the London Games in a country where less than 15% of people attend church.

On the evening of the Opening Ceremony, the DBU team worked with the seven churches and over 200 American volunteers from churches from South Carolina, Missouri, California, and Texas to host a kick-off party. The event drew 6,500 people to the village's common area for a time of food, drinks, and fellowship.

“Seeing people of all nationalities coming together opened my eyes to see how enormous our God made this world,” explained DBU senior Jamie Lowrie. “It made me feel small, but at the same time loved because God loves every single one of us and treats us all as equals no matter where you are from.”

Throughout the rest of the week, the DBU team helped with Sunday morning worship, a youth night, and a ladies night for women in the community.

“Jon and I were very proud of our team as they worked hard, exhibited servant leadership, and shared the love of Christ through their actions,” shared team leader Whitney Cooper.

International Students Partner with Angel Wing Florals

Knowing fall break is a quiet time on a university campus, DBU's International Office planned activities throughout the week for international students who were unable to make the trip home.

Nearly 20 girls from the international department gathered to help a local ministry, Angel Wing Florals, during fall break. Started several years ago by retired nurse Jeanette Bailey, Angel Wing Florals is an outreach ministry that arranges and delivers silk and fresh flowers to those in nursing homes, hospitals, retirement homes, and assisted living communities.

The idea for Angel Wing Florals came to Jeanette after 16 years as a registered nurse, when she felt the Lord gave her the idea of helping people beyond just their physical needs.

During the morning, the girls arranged colorful flowers in small vases and then wrote personal notes of encouragement that they attached to their arrangements. “When everyone else leaves for fall break, the international students can’t go home. I think it’s important to do this with them because like 1 John says loving is an action,” stated Rebecca Robson, an international tutor. “Just hearing Jeanette talk, you can feel her love for the Lord, and I think the students will see the love of God through serving others.”

After finishing their arrangements, the group traveled from DBU to a local nursing home that Jeanette partners with to deliver the flowers and sing hymns for the residents. Undergraduate student Mary Haufiku from Namibia, Africa, shared, “I think serving is my gift, and I was happy to participate. I’ve never known my grandparents, so I wanted to help someone’s grandparents since I didn’t know mine. It is an opportunity to do something good, and it brings joy to know that we are helping people.”

Jen Coa from Southern China also expressed, “I just wanted to follow my heart and help people. I want other people to feel happy because we went to see them.”

Although many miles away from home, the opportunity to serve with Angel Wing Florals gave the girls from countries all over the world a chance to feel at home and appreciated in their new community.