

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
February 7, 2010
More Than Gold Olympic Sunday

Prelude

Call to Worship: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me, All the Way My Saviour Leads Me*

Welcome: Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church to our More Than Gold Olympic Sunday. If you are a guest please take a Connect Card and fill it out and drop it in the offering plate when it comes by. Let's greet one another!

Sing: *Nothing But the Blood, God of Wonders, Filled With Your Glory, How Great is Our God*

Children's Corner: (Alyssa)

Hey boys and girls does anyone know how many more days until the Vancouver Winter Olympics begin?

The Vancouver Winter Olympics will begin in 5 days on Friday, February 12th. I want to introduce to you, on the big screen, one of our Canadian Olympians, Cindy Klassen. She is a speed skater and a Christian. Show clip:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHok9uyGinU&feature=player_embedded

How many of you would like to be a speed skater? Cool! I like Cindy because she is a great speed skater; but more importantly I like her because she is bold about her faith in God and she seeks to give Him glory for everything that she has accomplished through Him.

Let's pray for Cindy and other Christian Olympians that God will give them success so they can give God the glory. Let's pray!

Offering: Thanks Alyssa! I like Cindy because she was the first Canadian to win 5 medals in one Olympic games.

More Than Gold is a collaborative effort involving 45 Evangelical Organizations including our convention and others like the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, & Athletes in Action.

The goal of More Than Gold is to connect and coordinate a Christian volunteer involvement before, during, and after the 2010 games. In May of 2007 More Than Gold received their official welcome from the Vancouver Organizing Committee to assist in four areas: chaplaincy, home stay, parking/transportation, and sustainability. Additionally More Thank Gold will coordinate other expressions of Christian service

and witness. It's a great thing. More Than Gold has been around since 1996 when they started serving at the Atlanta Summer Games.

We have a team of 5 going to Vancouver to participate in the More Than Gold project. Commission the Mission Team: Amanda Porter, Cindy LeCocq, Stephanie Burgess, Jennifer & Jenna Wallace (February 17-23, 2010)

Offertory: *Offering* (John Jordan)

Sermon: More Than Gold (1 Corinthians 9:19-27)

Map: Last fall the Olympic torch started out in Olympia, Greece and two weeks ago it made it's way to Calgary.

We got to see the torch at the COP: bob sleigh, Tyler, lift, snow board.

Olympia, Greece is not far from Corinth where Paul went to on his 2nd & 3rd missionary journeys.

The city of Corinth hosted it's own games very other year called the Isthmian Games.

In this context Paul wrote: **1 Corinthians 9:19-27**

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Three Game Strategies

1. Play the Game of Like! (verses 19-23)

Dr. Calvin Miller taught his church in Omaha to play the game of like (connect).

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

2. Go for the Crown! (verses 24-25)

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

There are three crowns mentioned: the Crown of Righteousness, the Crown of Life, and the Crown of Glory.

Snow Leopard: Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong

He is 35 years old.

He is from Ghana.

He learned how to ski 6 years ago.

He is competing in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

He was inspired by the 1993 film Cool Runnings, which told the story of the Jamaican bobsleigh team who competed in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. "It's such a great film," he said. "People thought they couldn't do it but they showed they could."

He says: "I want to win. I'm aiming for the top." A committed Christian, he added: "Everyone at church is behind me."

He teaches children in Ghana how to ski on grass and exposes them to the cold using a fish freezer.

Snow Leopard who knows the Lion of Judah.

William Carey: "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."

3. Do not be Disqualified! (verse 26-27)

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

US Bob Sleigh Team Disqualified in 1994

LILLEHAMMER, Norway, Feb. 27 Brian Shimer, driver of USA-2, was disqualified from today's four-man competition because the bobsled's runners were too warm, the first time in Olympic history that a team has been disqualified for such a thing.

The warmer the runners, the faster the sled. According to Olympic rules, runners are checked one hour before race time and the temperature is updated every 10 minutes.

If a sled's runners are not within 4 degrees Celsius of a test runner, the sled is disqualified.

You cannot tamper with the runners or weight!

- Two-man: minimum 384 pounds (170kg) when empty, maximum 860 pounds (390kg) with crew and equipment

Winter Games 2010 Opportunities

- Invite others over for an Opening Ceremony Party on Feb 12th.
- Invite others over to watch Team Canada events.
- Give away the More Than Gold Pocket Guides & Pins to team mates, co-workers, friends, or family.
- Use "Believe" Snicker Bars, sports wear, & commercials as a conversation starter to talk about what you and your friends believe in.
- Tour the Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame at the Calgary Olympic Park with friends & share More Than Gold Pocket Guides or Pins with the COP workers.
- Have a movie night with friends and family and watch Olympic or sports themed movies like *Miracle*, *Cool Runnings*, & *Chariots of Fire*.
- Organize ski days or outdoor hockey and skating nights with friends and neighbors and have fun together participating in winter sports.
- Serve as a volunteer at future sporting events at the Canada Olympic Park.
- Pray for opportunities, for volunteers, and for our Christian athletes.

<http://www.morethangold.ca/>

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Response: *Jesus, All for Jesus*

Sin, Focus, Become, Olympic Opportunity

Announcements:

Postlude: *Glory to God Forever*