

2016 “Road to Gold” Prayer Guide

Praying for the Summer Games

August 1 – August 31

Before the Games (August 1-5)

- Day 1** Pray for travel and preparations. Pray for safety as delegations from around the world travel to Brazil. Pray for the preparations being made at each competition venue. Pray for the competitors’ training. Pray for safety related to environmental hazards presently at work in Brazil.
- Day 2** Pray for protection. Pray that human trafficking surrounding the Olympic Games is diminished and that offenders are brought to justice.
- Day 3** Pray for the credentialed chaplains as they serve in the Religious Services Center in the Olympic Village and for chaplains assigned to various national delegations and teams.
- Day 4** Pray for Brazil as they host the Olympic Games, for the organizing committee, for each community in which Olympians compete and for smooth logistics. Pray that the Olympics are a blessing for the local economy.
- Day 5** Pray for the Opening Ceremony and all those who will participate. Pray these games will provide a setting for men and women to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

During the Games (August 6-21)

- Day 6** Pray for the Olympians as the competitions begin today. Pray for everyone to compete at their highest level.
- Day 7** Pray for the Olympians to look to God during the moments of pressure— not to drugs, cheating or harming another person.
- Day 8** Pray for the Olympians to maintain unity among teammates and competitors from other nations.
- Day 9** Pray for the Olympic support staff who work long hours without much rest.
- Day 10** Pray for the Olympians to compete with humility not self-promotion.
- Day 11** Pray and ask God to open the hearts of the Olympians to seek out God through conversations with chaplains.
- Day 12** Pray for the Olympians and spectators from restricted nations to have divine appointments to hear the Gospel.
- Day 13** Pray for the outreach projects taking place around the stadiums to share the Gospel with spectators and local communities.
- Day 14** Pray for travel safety as people move between the many Olympic competition sites throughout Brazil.
- Day 15** Pray for the officiating teams of each sport to have strength, alertness and courage to make the best calls.
- Day 16** Pray for the medical staff to have the strength and clarity of mind to serve the Olympians with excellence.
- Day 17** Pray for the Christian Olympians to be salt and light in the Olympic village and arenas of competition.
- Day 18** Pray for the families of the Olympians as their emotions run high in support of their Olympian.
- Day 19** Pray for the Olympians to persevere even though most of them will not achieve the goal to win a medal.
- Day 20** Pray that all the Olympians would discover their identity in Christ.
- Day 21** Pray for teamwork to be strong among the Olympic teams as competitions draw to a close. Pray for the Closing Ceremony and all those who will participate.

After the Games (August 22-31)

- Day 22** Pray for those who travel back to their homes today. Pray for safe travel and that they are received well at home by the love and admiration of their friends, teammates and families.
- Day 23** Pray for those who find themselves at the end of their sporting careers. Pray that they deal well with the loss of identity, disruption of routine, and other issues that cause them grief. Pray that they turn to Christ to find their true identity.
- Day 24** Pray for ministry follow up from the Olympic Games in Brazil within the various teams, delegations and chaplains who served in the Religious Services Center.
- Day 25** Pray for Olympians—both coaches and athletes—to impact the world for Jesus Christ through their Olympic influence.
- Day 26** Pray for the nation of Brazil as they deal with the cleanup, restructuring, financial burdens and other follow up issues.
- Day 27** Pray for the Church in Brazil as they follow up their evangelistic efforts surrounding the Olympic Games and for fruit that will last.
- Day 28** Pray for the competitors who went home disappointed and are dealing with depression. Pray also for those who won medals but found success to be hollow and not fulfilling. Pray that they reach out to Christ to bring their souls genuine joy and satisfaction.
- Day 29** Pray for Christians to grow in passion to serve coaches and athletes in their communities.
- Day 30** Pray for the preparations being made for the Paralympics, September 7-18, in Brazil. Pray for the competitors, officials, organizing committee and volunteers.
- Day 31** Pray for the Paralympics and use this guide again during the month of September to pray for the Paralympics.

Prayers for the Summer Games

Praying for Impact and Influence

For Experiencing God's Presence in Sport

*Father of heaven and earth,
The world and everything in it is Yours, including sport.
You are present and active in the lives of all believers, including mine and the Olympians.
I confess that sport can overtake our minds and cloud the sense of Your presence that we desire.
Please awaken our souls and heighten our senses to Your nearness.
I pray that I and the Olympians will seek to hear, see and feel Your presence throughout this day in sport.
All that we are and all that we possess is turned toward You and the expectation of experiencing sport with Your life-transforming presence.
In Jesus' name I trust and pray, amen.*

For Olympians to Worship in Sport

*Father,
The world of sport is full of Your grace and glory.
Each Olympian's life in sport is surrounded by Your loving presence and merciful power.
I confess our hearts' rebellious ways, and we trust in your kind forgiveness.
May they revel in their moments of quiet communion and in hours of furious activity.
We treasure both contemplation and competition.
Every Olympian needs Your presence to encourage their pursuit of bringing Your heart pleasure.
I commit this day, each Olympian and all they bring to Your honor and glory.
In Jesus' holy name, amen.*

Prayer Prior to an Olympic Competition

*Powerful God of Heaven and earth,
Today's competition will require the absolute best of each Olympian and the same of his or her teammates.
Please help them compete at the heights of their abilities.
Please enable their hearts to be united.
Please grant them insight and wisdom.
Please infuse them with strength, speed, and endurance.
I pray they will honor You with each and every second of this contest.
In Jesus' strong name I pray, amen.*

Prayer for After an Olympic Competition

*Gracious Father,
Thank You for allowing Olympians the privilege of competing in sport.
I am thankful for Your presence as they competed.
I am thankful for the absence of injury.
I am hopeful that You were honored by their service in today's game.
I commit their performance and today's results to Your wise care.
I pray in Jesus' name, amen.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Olympic Sport

*Gracious Father,
You are the Giver of all good things.
Olympic sport is one of the best gifts we have received.
Thank You for the joy we find in it.
Thank You for the challenges it presents.
Thank You for the teammates that Olympians have in their sport.
Thank You for the coaches who lead in it.
Thank You for the officials who govern its competition.
Thank You for the rules that guide its play.
Thank You for the exhilarating release it is to the body, soul and mind.
I commit this day's experiences and all the participants in Olympic sport wholeheartedly to You.
In Christ Jesus' holy and strong name, amen.*