

The Battle of Birmingham

On the corner of New Street and High Street in Birmingham, England, glass fronts surround us on all sides, with hundreds of people hiding behind their books and cappuccinos. People of all ethnicities cross the square. A man in a white apron sells donuts from a food truck.

Freedom of Speech is interpreted much more liberally in England than in most other European nations: anybody can stand up for anything here, using loudspeakers, tents and handing out pamphlets - no permits needed.

Thus, we stand surrounded by a Muslim sect on one side, a fire-and-brimstone preacher on the other, a homeless guy with paper human cut-outs in the center of the square, and an atheist is walking around screaming that all religions are lies.

Meanwhile, the sports store at the corner has hired a DJ with a full-blown sound system to advertise their sale. In the midst of all the chaos, our EI team of twenty-five mighty young adults continues to stand strong for Jesus.

This is the battlefield, the epicenter of the spiritual war zone. Wearing EI drama t-shirts as our suits of armor, we engage in the battle for the lost sheep of England. Set to pop songs recognizable to the masses, crowds form as the first drama unfolds — they watch, they laugh, they cry. This is the story of their own lives. A man in white bursts on the scene — bringing freedom, hope and love. This is the happy ending they are all waiting for; the happy ending that they were all created for.

Meanwhile, 10 feet away, a Muslim man is on the microphone, trying to drown out our every move, our every word. He is shouting that Christians are liars and deceivers. He offers nothing about Islam; but only spews out hatred towards Christianity, angrily pointing his finger at us.

“They are here to trick you, to deceive you! Muslims are the only people who truly love Jesus. These people who are coming to talk with you now are going to tell you that Jesus is the Son of God, but Jesus is only the son of Mary, not the Son of God,” he shouts with fervor as his olive skin turns beet red.

*We pray for the Muslims’ speaker to stop working, so that God’s lost sons and daughters can hear of their Father. **Jesus is faithful — He does a miracle in our sight!!! Their PA system suddenly malfunctions and goes mute!** The angry Muslim man is forced to shout at the top of his lungs without any assistance from a sound system — few listen as he fades into irrelevance.*

Our team members immerse into the crowd, engaging in conversations and prayers for the lost. Several come to salvation, others are healed. Seeds of faith are sown deep in the hearts of hundreds more during one-to-one conversations. God’s power is unleashed, lives are changed for eternity. The Battle of Birmingham is a victory for The Kingdom.