



'How can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?'
Romans 10:14,15
Reaching the World for Christ through Sport



Dear praying friends,

Thank you so much for your commitment to praying for the work of SportsReach. **New logo, new website, same great message!** And what a summer! Great weather, great sport, but most of all, great opportunities to share the gospel, and see lives changed! Our soccer and netball school theme of **'In the Beginning'** took us on a journey of creation v evolution, what went wrong, what happened at the cross, and what now! The truth was presented, the Holy Spirit was at work, and lives were changed! Glory to God! Please pray on for these young people, and their families...and the churches as they follow up. And now it's autumn already! Tours, leagues, mission trips and next year's programme to plan! Busy days, but as we are reminded in Romans 10 **'How can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?'** (v 14 NLT) Our response at SportsReach is to echo the words of Isaiah **'Here I am, send me!'** (Isaiah 6v8). Thank you for being a part of the work, either as a volunteer, a prayer partner, or in giving financially...all of these help us accomplish *together* the **Great Commission. LET'S PRESS ON TOGETHER!**

In Him, Sue

Classics tour 2013

September 27th saw a small but very elite team of men and one woman head over to **Austria** to Tauernhof for our **fourth Classics tour**. The age range was diverse to say the least – 32 – 70years!!! And even though we didn't think it possible, the average age was up on previous years!!! However age proved no barrier to our God who worked mightily despite our aches and pains and ailments!!! Antibiotics, painkillers, deep heat and God are a remarkable combination!!! Results on the field were mixed with two wins and two defeats! 5-3 to Pruggern as we settled in as a team, a resounding defeat next at Grobming demolished us 14 – 2, but then we were warmed up, and defeated Schladming 8 – 5 and the all important game v the students saw us beat them 7-2.

Off the field we rejoiced as we saw God at work in many ways. The teams listened amazingly well as we shared after the games and there was a real sense of God's presence amongst us. One of our players shared how he had never been so upbeat and encouraged after such a huge defeat!!! In the world's eyes we had been defeated but in Heavens eyes a **victory had been won as one player indicated he had prayed to receive Christ** and others shared of encouragements and engaged in open conversations. After the Schladming game we were invited to join the players in their clubhouse which was tremendous. God's presence was again so evident as our own Richard Sloman showed his diversity as **he shared testimony in German** and great conversations were going on all over the hut. **"It is good that you come and meet with us as friends and not just to play us at football"** was both an encouragement but also a challenge to engage with and develop relationships even more.

The main highlight of many would have to be **the Sunday evening service at the Bible school** with the students, which we were privileged to speak at. Sue shared a very moving and powerful testimony which was borne out not only with words but also as God's power and strength was seen as she battled with the side effects of chemotherapy, bravely stepping out in obedience to His call and standing on the promise of "when I am weak, He is strong!" At the end of the service several people responded to God and made their way to the front to **kneel and pray and shed tears as they drew nearer to our amazing God!** Praise the Lord for allowing us to minister His word to people of all ages and walks of life.

Six weeks before our trip, the director of Tauernhof – **Hans Peter Royer** had sadly passed from this life into the arms of His Lord through a para-gliding accident. It was through his invitation that SportsReach first took a team over to Austria to use football to share the good news with his fellow Austrians. We played the games in honour of his memory and I am sure he would have been thrilled with all that went on over that week and to see how the relationship with SportsReach is deepening and growing and how more Austrian teams are now being reached. **October 26th will see a SportsReach ladies team combining with students to play 5 games of football against local ladies teams.** Please pray that we would again be privileged to see God at work and to Him be all glory.

A quote from one of our players summed the week up –

"I do believe that this tour will have impacted on lots of things as we shared for the Lord out in Austria. Inside myself I felt the love of the Lord, I was encouraged by the Bible times we had as a group plus the Sunday Service to see the young ones respond to the Holy Spirit. How good it was to see them hungry for the things of God."

God bless, Will





CONGRATULATIONS
John and Laura!!
 Our very own
 SportsReach
 Administrator
 married one of our
 Netball League
 Managers!
 13 July 2013
 A fantastic day!



All Day Cup Winners 2013
Quernmore Park Rangers

Bodenseehof - by Tim Slater

Will, John & myself travelled to **Bodenseehof Bible School** in Germany to coach football to German youngsters aged 12-16 & to teach them also about the love of Jesus & their need for salvation. The weather was excellent with many sunburnt faces amongst the coaches as the week progressed!

This is always a special week for me personally because I have seen first hand the **changed lives** of some of the youngsters from previous trips there. We have formed warm friendships over the years with both the youngsters & the other German coaches who travel from different parts of their country to help us. I was able to see a young lad who gave his life to Jesus two years ago & to see him as a **changed young man**. I told him that I often tell his story back in the UK.

One notable memory at the end of this trip was about a young boy whose parents told us when collecting him that he has never lasted a full week at any camp due to his behaviour.

However, he stayed the full week at Bodenseehof and very much felt the love and friendship of all there. He even created a Soccer Camp Facebook group to continue the friendships once we had all gone our separate ways!

This year, I had the pleasure of seeing **two young guys give their hearts to Jesus** and in particular with one of them, I could see his specific focus and desire to get to know his Saviour. When I later told his father of his son's salvation, and that the angels will be rejoicing in heaven, the father responded in his best efforts of the English language, "his father will be rejoicing also!" Each year here, I see youngsters improve their football but more importantly, **I see saved lives.**

Truly one of my favourite weeks of the SportsReach calendar!



More pics from 'the Classics'...



A note from Sue...

Thank you *so* much for your prayers for my health this summer. It has been an amazing time, He has given me even *more* opportunities to share - God is good! I was even able to go on Austria Classics, and am going again to Austria Oct 25th for girls' outreach! One more chemo to go on the 5th Nov...please pray on! x



Summer Soccer & Netball Schools

Clapham

Every year gets better – this year we had the most children yet! This is the week I really look forward to, and enjoy getting involved in ‘The Coaches’ Lunches’ and also the BBQ on the Saturday afternoon (even though I am a ‘Gran’!) **It’s such a thrill**, when I go up at lunch time to see all the children with their coaches sat round the tables (usually in the sun), not talking about footy, but much more important, **talking about Living for Jesus** and what it means to become a real born-again Christian. It’s great to see the children asking questions about **knowing the Lord Jesus as their Saviour**.

As grandparents we were absolutely thrilled to see 6 of our grandsons there playing football and enjoying it all, and Abigail our granddaughter loved ‘the netball’! I love going into the meetings after lunch, there’s a wonderful atmosphere and it’s such a happy time, much singing and clapping and it’s great to hear one of the coaches share their testimony which is a real life-changing event. **The Awards’ Service on Sunday is a big highlight of the week** – great to see our Chapel packed out, and also so encouraging seeing non-Christian parents in, coming under the sound of the gospel. It was great to have Will and Sue with us this year, and of course Richard and John as well! **Will gave a very challenging simple gospel message**, before we spent time talking and fellowship over lunch. Great to know that there were children who have put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour, and we shall keep praying for them and ‘The SportsReach Team’. **We look forward to Clapham SportsReach 2014! Irene Fawcett**



Great Eccleston – personal testimony from Donna and Eddie Montgomery

*In 2006 Eddie and I felt that our lives were incomplete. What we mean by that was we didn't have the Lord in our lives. We went searching for a church to attend and came across **Great Eccleston Free Methodist**. The moment we went we felt God's love from everyone there.*

In 2008 I started helping out with SportsReach at our church. Eddie started helping in 2009.

It was in 2009 at SportsReach that God really spoke to us and we gave our lives to the Lord.

*We both really enjoy being part of SportsReach and sharing Gods Word with the children. This was no different this summer. We all came away filled with joy at the impact that God's Word has on the children at SportsReach. **Seeing our son give his life to the Lord was one of many highlights!***



Staines

The weather was hot, the football skills impressive and the final day belonged to Jesus! Twenty children between seven and 14 years old joined Staines Cong’s first ever Sportsreach Soccer School which ran from 28 to 31 August. The aim with the week’s activities was to have fun, improve soccer skills and learn more about Jesus. Each day included skills coaching, Bible time, a talk and plenty of matches.

On the final day the children were given the choice of what to do: getting to know Jesus, reflecting on their lives with Jesus or playing football. **Without exception the children chose to learn about Jesus** – a telling result that the fun and sport was good but not a patch on a life filled with Christ.

Rev Nick Gray had much praise for the staff at Mathew Arnold School, parents and everyone involved in making the week a resounding success. On whether the church will arrange another soccer school in 2014, the answer is...

“Watch out for dates for next year”!

Bethersden

What a great week! Good numbers, great weather, and a vast array of opportunities to share Christ! Two boys in particular were transformed by the power of the gospel that week, and one of the assistant coaches! One of the young boys went home and led his young sister to the Lord, and has since shared testimony in church.

Another highlight of the week was a group of teenage lads who came along in the afternoon, watched what we were doing, and stayed into the evening as we played football against them each night and shared the gospel and testimonies! Long days in the ‘harvest field’, but so rewarding! They even came and joined the coaches v parents match on the Saturday, followed by the BBQ, and were some of the last to leave! Two weeks later, whilst at Sandhurst SS, we travelled up to Bethersden one evening, played the lads again, and then played and **shared with the local village football team!**

Please pray for these youths, and for the follow-up – Kevin from Sandhurst is organising 5aside nights at Tenterden linking all the lads together. This is a great opportunity!

So, **Bethersden was a great soccer school...** and I’m sure we haven’t heard the last of it! *Sue Marsden*



Wray

Another great week this year, our 12th soccer school! We were blessed with some lovely weather, great coaches and enthusiastic kids which made for a fantastic atmosphere! It was good to see the children listening and learning well both with the football and the Bible times too. It's so encouraging to see the children who come year in year and how they have come on and improved with their skills and ability, but more importantly the children who have **made commitments to Christ** in the past at Wray, that they continue to live for him and are growing in faith. We pray for all of the children and parents too that seeds were sown and that eyes were opened to see what Christ can do for them in their lives. We **praise God** for another successful soccer school, SportsReach and their ministry and the opportunities He gives us to share with others. *Andrew Wright*

Sandhurst

Once more we were favoured with good weather for the 10th **SportsReach @ SBC**. Every year seems to get that bit easier due to past experience and once more a gallant team of helpers ensured that all went smoothly. Most of the team camped out in the church which helped the team to bond well and have lovely times together.

A very happy spirit pervaded the event and the team related well to one another and to the children who participated. Several comments were made regarding how the children and teenagers had matured and how they played sport and joined in the Bible times and meetings in good spirit.

The Sunday Awards Service once more attracted a large number of people and many said what an inspiring meeting it was. Kev Jones was interviewed and his testimony was especially moving and heart-warming. Will Marsden spoke about creation using an illustrative talk to contest the theory of evolution and to promote the necessity, availability and possibility of salvation.

So what is the result? Well, three persons indicated that they had prayed for salvation and surely all were moved to hear Sue Marsden’s testimony and see her bravely taking part just hours after chemotherapy. How far do such seeds of witness spread? Well a friend of mine heard a testimony from as far away as Folkestone, telling of how a person had given his heart to the Lord at SBC in a previous SportsReach. I preached 33 miles away a week later and after the service two people came and spoke to me about the witness of Sue. Thanks so much to all who helped; the Lord will reward you in His own way and in His own time. *Ken Slater*



 Netball Leagues

Lancaster - every Wednesday 7pm-
9.30pm @ Lancaster Uni
Sandhurst - every Saturday 9am



 5-Aside Leagues

Men's

Carnforth - every Wed 8pm-10pm

Women's

Lancaster - every Saturday 5pm-6pm



 Men's 11-Aside League

Every Saturday @ 2pm

-  • Austria Ladies Tour 25th October - 1st November @ Tauernhof, Schladming Approx 5 outreach matches
 - Black Forest Trip 28th October - 2nd November. British teenagers travel to Haus Barnabas, Utzenfeld, for Football, Fun and Faith
- Dates for next year...
- Sponsored 24hr snooker/darts/table tennis 17th January
 - Commissioning Service @ Capernwray Saturday 1st Feb 7pm
 - Weekend Away @ Knock, Appleby 7th - 9th February

For more details of all of the above, please see our website!

Also, check out our Facebook Page!

Please continue to pray for finance. If anyone would like to donate, this can now be done online from our website. Thank you.

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