



Dear friends

*"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen" Ephesians 3:20,21*

**Many thanks for the amazing support you have been to us over this last twelve months.** We have felt and known your prayers on many occasions and have been so privileged to see God at work in many hearts and lives. It is a real joy and privilege to be involved with the ministry of SportsReach and we receive so many encouragements. *Can we share a few with you that we have experienced over the last year?*

- ❖ We ran a **soccer school** at Easter and had a fantastic time with the kids and parents too. A great conversation with a mum followed the **Awards Service** and what joy as we received an e-mail later in the year to let us know that she had attended a **Christianity Explored course** at the church, had **received Christ as Saviour** and was being baptised. **Praise the Lord!**
- ❖ The theme of **"In the beginning"** has challenged children and parents alike as we looked at creation and what has gone wrong and how Jesus came to deal with sin. A teenage boy who has been to soccer schools for several years and has always been opposed to creation, this summer shared how his views had changed and how creation made so much more sense and at the **Awards Service** on the Sunday morning he too received Christ!
- ❖ **The tours** have been a great means of not only outreach but also "in-reach". Again we saw God move amongst the young men we took to Austria in May. Over the years there have been many 'nominal' Christians **come back on fire for God**, many others have gone on to **study at Bible College** and others have **entered into the ministry**.
- ❖ **Our leagues** continue to be a means for bringing people under the sound of the gospel. With the football and netball leagues that are currently running, up to **300 people a week are hearing the gospel**. We have seen fruit but long for more.
- ❖ A couple of comments which have been a great blessing and encouragement but also a challenge to us to keep pressing on - **'I don't know of any other ministry in this area that has done so much for our own young people as SportsReach'** (a man from a local church) - **'In an age when we are struggling to connect with men, this is a great ministry for reaching men that would never come to church or hear the gospel.'** (a man involved with the football league)

**Thank you so much for your prayers and support.** We also want to thank you for your generosity in supporting the work financially. It is wonderful how God provides. With the growth of the work, however, our general account has experienced a deficit over the past few years. **Please thank God with us for His faithfulness** and continue to **pray with us** that the necessary funds will be released. *All gifts are very much appreciated.* However what would help our cash flow and planning the most would be more **regular monthly givers**. If you are able to partner with us financially, then please use the enclosed form. We **know** He is faithful and appreciate your prayers as we await His provision.

**Have a blessed Christmas and may you know the joy and peace that comes only from His presence. Love, Will and Sue**

[24 hour Sponsored Snooker/table tennis](#) followed by [Coffee Morning @ Will & Sue's 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January 2014](#). Come and join us! For more details and directions contact Sue – [sue@sportsreach.org.uk](mailto:sue@sportsreach.org.uk) Tel: 07882 748835

**SPONSORED COAST TO COAST!** John, Sooty, Mark and Andy are walking or biking from east to west 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Jan to raise money for SportsReach funds. Please contact the office if you would like to sponsor them!

**COMMISSIONING SERVICE**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2014 7pm @ Capernwray Hall**

**Followed by refreshments**

**Sports Hall and Swimming Pool available for use after the service – all welcome!!**

**SPORTSREACH CALENDARS**

**£5 each**

**Available from the office**

**WEEKEND AWAY!**

**7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February @ Knock Christian Centre**

**Check out our website for more details**

[www.sportsreach.org.uk](http://www.sportsreach.org.uk)

## AUSTRIA LADIES TRIP



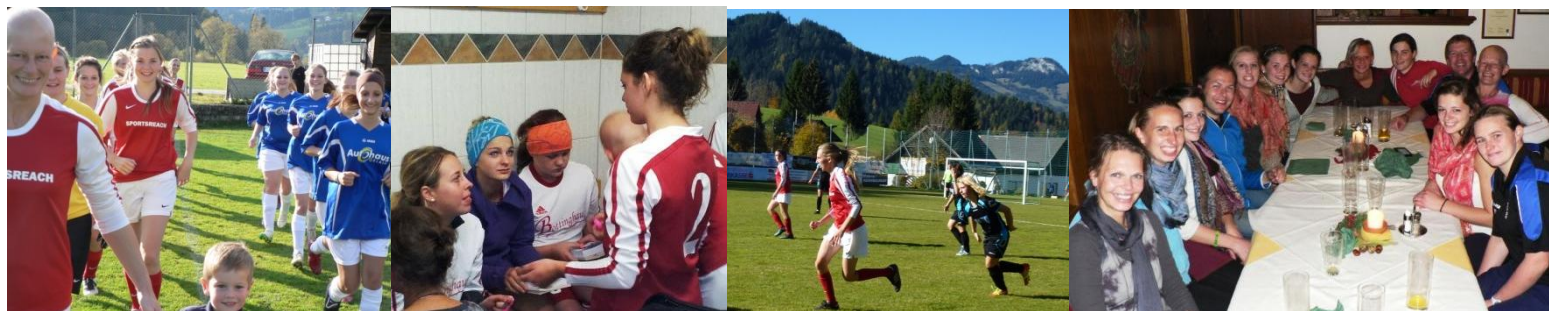
Following the success of the **Classics Trip** in September, and having prayed about it for a few years, we chatted with Jonny from Tauernhof about taking a few girls over late October during half-term, to make up an 8-side team with some of the students, and **play against the local girls teams** up and down the valley. We felt God confirmed this, Jonny contacted the local teams who were keen to play us...and off we went to Austria, again!



Myself, Will, three of our daughters (Grace, Ruth and Sarah) and our friend Vicky were joined by students Doro, Maddie, Emma and Annie from Tauernhof, and Caro who has been on staff there in previous years. Some friends from Germany also joined us, and a local Austrian girl, for what turned out to be a **truly great week! God gave us 6 matches in 6 days (!)** – 5 against local girls' teams, and one against the student lads. We won 4 and lost 2 (not bad for two 14 year olds, a 46 year old on chemo, no actual goalkeeper, and a group of girls who had never played together before!). More importantly of course was **the sharing time after the matches – it was amazing!** We shared testimony, shared the gospel, gave out Bibles, one of Hans Peter's books, and 'Four Points' bracelets - and the girls chatted and even prayed with the Austrian girls on a one-to-one basis after every match. One team, Selzthal, even put on food for us, and most teams gave us a pennant or trophy as a memento of our time there. Conversations were also had with supporters and refs. **All are keen to play again next year!**

As a team, we were also privileged to join the students for Bible lectures from John Allen, and to take the Sunday morning service at Tauernhof. **The students and staff made us most welcome!**

It was so evident that God had gone before us, this was a **very special trip** and we pray it will be the start of something great that God is doing amongst these girls – **please join us in praying for them. Special thanks** to the staff at Tauernhof for making this trip possible, at such short notice! Praise God! **Sue**



### Haus Barnabas 2013 – John Gorst

In the October half term, Tim Slater, Kevin Jones and I took twelve 12-16 year olds to **Haus Barnabas in the Black Forest**. This was the second time we had run the tour and it was a fantastic opportunity to have input into the lives of these young folk. We had a full program with football coaching, bible times, two football matches and evening fun games and DVD's. Haus Barnabas is set in a beautiful part of Germany and we also enjoyed some great trips, the highlight of which was a toboggan run.

The two games we played both ended in defeat, but it was encouraging to see the group of young people work so hard for each other and play in a great spirit. We also had chance to **share the Gospel** with these teams and to talk one to one with some of the players afterwards.

The week wasn't without challenges but God was really at work amongst the youngsters. One lad said when he got back **'It was the best 6 days of my life, it was just brilliant.'** He also said **'I'm going to be a changed man because of it'**. Many of the young folk are not yet Christians, but please join us in continuing to pray for them as so many of them were challenged by God to follow Him.

**...Please continue to pray** for the ongoing work of the leagues; for next year's programme including the theme for the soccer and netball schools; for all staff and their families and the many volunteers involved in the work; for finance;...but most of all **pray that God would be glorified in all that we do, and that many would come to Christ in 2014 through the work of SportsReach. Pray it will be the 'best year yet'!**

#### Contact us...

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