

TRAINING WEEKENDS

NORTH 7-9 Feb Knock, Appleby A great weekend, perhaps our best yet! The centre was almost at capacity, with 65 folks gathered aged from 3 to 70! Great Bible teaching, from 1 John, looking at **God is Light, Love and Life**, special times of **prayer and praise**, great times of **fun and fellowship**, and the sport was pretty good too! Fun footy match on the Saturday morning on the small pitch at Knock, and then off to more competitive stuff at Kirkby Stephen Sports Centre – 4 teams playing against each other, with the final going to penalties! Netball was enjoyed indoors at Knock, and then drew the short straw for the outdoor courts at Kirkby! Junior football was led by Tommy (see pic on the front cover) Special mention has to go to the catering team – Richard and Helen Metcalfe and family from Ripon – tremendous! **Roll on next year**, bigger venue needed??!



SOUTH 21-23 Feb Carrotty Wood, Tonbridge With having so many soccer and netball schools now in the south of England, and having made good friends and co-workers for the gospel, we decided to run a **training weekend in Kent** – and it was a great success! 35 signed up to come, again all ages, and the venue was excellent! The teaching was again by Will on 1 John, and we had some **great sharing and prayer times**. And the sport – football, netball, swimming, low-ropes course – was enjoyed by all! Again a huge thanks to the caterers – Grace, Ruth and Sarah Marsden with helpers Ru, Cara and Joel! I think this could be the first of many...watch this space!



PRAYER POINTS

Please use the enclosed prayer bookmark to cover each event with prayer.

Soccer and Netball Schools –

- ❖ School assemblies prior to each sports school
- ❖ Children to sign up
- ❖ Enough coaches
- ❖ Safety

Football League –

- ❖ End of Season Meal – for good numbers and a powerful message
- ❖ Managers
- ❖ MORE teams next season

Tours –

- ❖ More to sign up
- ❖ Team devotions
- ❖ Open doors for matches
- ❖ Great sharing times after each match

Pray that at every event we will see people, young and old, commit their lives to God.

*****WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO SIGN UP AND COME ON TOUR – please pray, and SPREAD THE WORD!*****



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Reports and prayer and praise points

Spring 2014



**REACHING THE WORLD
FOR CHRIST THROUGH
SPORT**

Dear friends, ‘Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.’ Col 4:2-4

These are verses which have been very much on our heart over the past few months at SportsReach, and we would ask you to join us by ‘**devoting yourselves to prayer**’ – this is the key if we are to see God work powerfully through our ministry. Pray with ‘**a thankful heart**,’ thanking God for the wonderful ways God has provided for us, given us open doors into schools, and for the lives which have been changed in the last few months. Pray ‘**that God will give us many opportunities**’ in schools, on tours, at soccer and netball schools, to ‘**speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ**’. And pray that ‘**we will proclaim this message as clearly as we should**’. Thank you for your continued prayer and support, please use the enclosed **prayercard** to pray for specific events in our calendar, and rejoice with us as we see lives changed by the power of God! **Will and Sue**

SOCcer DAYS...

‘What a great day’.... ‘thank you everyone for fantastic fun’..... ‘my son has loved it, when are you coming again’.... ‘we love the ethos of what you do’..... just a few of the comments from parents and children after the **Staines on Thames (London)** Soccer day in February. As part of a week-long mission, Staines Congregational Church invited us to take a full day of **Faith, Football and lots of Fun!** 52 children came along. God blessed us with a beautiful day, especially after the floods they had experienced in the winter. The day was packed full of skills, drills and fun games with a time set aside for looking into God’s Word and what Jesus did for each one of us when He gave His life on the Cross. 8 children showed a real interest in knowing more about being a **true follower of Jesus** and the importance of making a decision for Christ. Pray for the Church as they follow up.



Nether Kellet On Saturday 8th March 19 boys and 2 girls attended a Sportsreach Soccer Day on the village playing field. It was great to see how some of the children’s skills noticeably improved after the coaching and it’s a shame some premier league players weren’t there to see how penalties should be taken! It was a joy to see the children play with a competitive yet friendly spirit, but there will be **rejoicing in Heaven** over 2 of the children making the most important decision of their lives - in **trusting the Saviour**.

LEAGUES...

SASIDE This winter was our 6th season, with 9 teams playing at Carnforth High School on Wednesday evenings. The winners were **Westhouse** who again managed to win every game, playing some fantastic football. It’s great to see lots of players coming and watching other teams play and also the camaraderie amongst the teams. Every week at 9pm, half way through the evening one of the Christian players shares a Gospel message or a word of testimony. We have had some great messages, which have been very **challenging, clear and direct**. Please pray on that we would see more players saved.

The 2nd **WOMEN’S SASIDE** was run with just 4 teams at Uni of Cumbria Sports Centre, another great season, with a strong team from Morecambe taking the title this year. Great messages shared throughout, we pray on.



11ASIDE With the season almost over, we thank God again for this unique outreach, where young men are hearing the gospel each week on a football pitch. We have had two great **CUP FINALS** at the Giant Axe Stadium, Lancaster with great crowds, great weather and great speakers. **PLEASE COMMIT TO PRAYING FOR THE LEAGUE** that it will grow, and go from strength to strength next season. Pray too for the league meal.

NETBALL We have just completed our 7th Netball League – 2 divisions, 13 teams at Lancaster Uni. Winners this year of Division 1 **Chipping Wildcats**, Division 2 **The Well**, Cup Winners **Garstang**, Plate Winners **The Well** (great to have a new team in this year, The Well, from Christians Alive, Lancaster) Praise God for a great season which was celebrated at the League Meal Saturday 15th March when 100 ladies gathered, trophies were presented, and the gospel was powerfully shared by Lizzie Hyde (SportsReach South rep). Praise God too that at a recent **netball awards service** at a local church, **one of the players gave her life to God!**



SPONSORED EVENTS... People have said to us over the past few months “you’re doing a lot of sponsored events!” Well, there is good reason for this... funds have been low over the winter months, and we prayed that God would provide, **and He has**; but we also felt we needed to take up the challenge ourselves...

COAST TO COAST January is not an ideal time of year for embarking on this challenge, but funds were low, and John, Sooty, Mark and Andy decided to take on the challenge! And it was a challenge – darkness, freezing temperatures, aching muscles and sore limbs! But joyful hearts, beautiful sunshine and tremendous support kept them going to achieve their target! **A huge thank you** to all who came out to encourage them and to all who sponsored, (£5,500 raised to date) and thanks to God for keeping them safe and giving them energy!



24 HOUR SNOOKER AND COFFEE MORNING This has become an annual event and took place 17th and 18th Jan at Will & Sue’s. People came throughout the 24 hours to take Will and Sooty on at snooker and table tennis, as well as enjoy fellowship and lots of food! The event concluded with a coffee morning, and all in all raised over £1,100. **Thank you** to all who came, especially the ones who kept morale going in the early hours of the morning!



100 MILE SWIM To celebrate **recovery from breast cancer**, and to raise much-needed funds for SportsReach, Sue decided to do a **Sponsored 100 Mile Swim**, with a **LOT** of help from her friends! 68 people joined, and on Saturday 15 Feb they swam over 150 miles (over 10,000 lengths!) Thank you to all who swam and sponsored – money is still coming in but looks like we have raised **almost £5,000**, to be split between **Breast Cancer Research and SportsReach!**

