



Dear praying friends,

Summer 2014

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2Corinthians 5:20,21

“Mum, mum! Will’s become a Christian!” These words were heard at one of our recent soccer schools, as a Christian lad saw his team mate give his life to Christ! The past few months have been busy to say the least! Soccer and netball schools, assemblies, tournaments, overseas tours...and ALL of these have given us great opportunities to tell people about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Children have come to Christ; teams in Austria and France which included men from many nationalities and faiths (including Muslim) have heard the gospel and been encouraged to read the Bible and to find out for themselves who Jesus is; netballers have been challenged to ‘take time out’ and ‘Be still, and know that I am God’...**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT WHICH HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE!**

Please continue to pray. A busy summer is ahead of us, with more soccer and netball schools, tournaments and tours. Pray that we will be ‘ambassadors for Christ’ and that we will see many ‘reconciled to God’.

To HIM be the glory! Sue

Battle. Praise God for answering so many prayers! It was fantastic to have not only Football, but for the first time we had Netball as well, and wow how they enjoyed it. 58 children, ably coached by the SportsReach team and willing volunteers from Battle Baptist Church, had loads of fun, learnt new skills, made new friends, played matches and had a great time and all in dry conditions. The torrential rain and flooding in weeks leading up to Easter drifted away and God once again put His big umbrella up, protecting us and ensuring we had the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus. In our Bible time booklet we found out more about ‘Who Jesus really is’ and who we think He is. The most important question of the week that we put to the children was... ‘Who do you say Jesus is?’ The response was great, with many children wanting to ask questions and find out more about what it is to be a follower of Jesus. With a near full church on the Sunday morning, Will explained how sports men and women are soon forgotten but Jesus’ name stands the test of time and the importance of knowing Him personally. Praise God for all the adults and children who came along. See you next year!!!!

Caton. Once again God gave us fine weather when rain was forecast! We had a great number of kids, with 3 teams in the netball, 3 junior football and 4 senior, the school grounds and scout hut were filled to capacity! The theme ‘Who is Jesus’ provoked some good questions in Bible times, and what I particularly enjoyed was hearing the Christians on my team passionately sharing their faith with the rest of the team – it was inspiring to see, and at the end of the week there were 5 young people who committed their lives to God! It was wonderful to see them chatting and praying with the coaches in the optional counselling times. The Sunday morning service was again a highlight, the church was packed, and two men responded as they looked at the evidence of who Jesus really is, and the reason He came to earth. Please continue to pray for those who took literature, made a commitment to God, and for the Christians too that they will continue to grow in their faith and share with others who Jesus is.

Carnforth Soccer and Netball School ran from 8th – 11th April with an awards service on Sunday 13th. 50 children attended and all seemed to enjoy the skills, competitions and matches. We had a great team of coaches. One of the main highlights was the Bible times, it was great to see children in each team really engaging with the question ‘who is Jesus?’. And it became evident as the week went on that a number of the children were really considering what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. Our prayer is that the seeds planted in the lives of the children and the parents would find good soil and bring about a harvest at the right time.

Market Harborough. What a great week! Numbers were low to begin with, we sent a message round to pray for more, and God answered prayers! We had 40 kids for the week of football, netball, fun and faith – and God blessed us in every area! We had great weather, a good bunch of kids who were keen to learn sport (some of the netballers had never played before, and they learnt so much in the four days, it was amazing!), and some great Bible times and meetings. On the Sunday the church was packed, with all the kids sitting on bean bags at the front! Several families expressed a desire to come back the following week, good contacts were made, and bridges built. Praise God!



Suffolk. We had an absolutely amazing week with Tim and Tommy from SportsReach immediately bonding in friendship and purpose. This was a very new venture for us, but we especially knew the value when three children stayed behind to enquire more about giving their lives to Jesus, and about half a dozen more wanting a deeper walk with God. We recently heard that one of the children was interviewed in church to ask how his week was, and he replied, “I found The Lord at soccer school!” Such an incredible week, what really shone was a bigger love for Jesus than the game – we’ll see you next year then! All our love from the south! Stephen and Cynthia Walker, Faith Mission



Kirkby Stephen Soccer Day. Over 40 kids gathered at Parrot Park. The weather was perfect, blue skies and sunshine! Football was played in a great spirit, the way it should be played! And the gospel message was well received – it was encouraging to see children coming and asking for 'Journey into Life' booklets for their parents, and to see so many parents come and watch their children in the World Cup Matches and stay for the BBQ and Parents v Coaches' match. Sunday morning we had the Treasure Hunt and then Family Worship Time at the Gospel Hall, Mellbecks. Thanks to all who helped in any way. Please continue to pray for this on-going work.

HOCKEY!!!

3rd May saw our **first ever** SportsReach Hockey Match! This was played in Lancaster as a memorial match in memory of John Jackson, a faithful supporter and prayer warrior of the ministry. The Jackson family took on SportsReach, a fantastic game with a 0-0 result and a message given at the end by Mrs Fanny Jackson. Let's pray that this will be the start of a new area of outreach – we already are hoping for another match in Kent during the summer. If you are interested, or would like to get a team together for a friendly match, please contact Sue – sue@sportsreach.org.uk



Men's Football League Meal took place on Monday 5th May @ Capernwray Hall – over 100 men gathered for a great meal, quiz, presentation of trophies and awards, and heard a powerful testimony from Billy Ainscough – Hillsborough survivor. **Please continue to pray for the league** – for growth, managers, and players.

5 Aside Tournament
Saturday 12th July
@ Lancaster University
Please pray for this big event

Netball Tournament North. This is where SportsReach netball all began in 2004, and this was one of our biggest events yet – 23 teams entered, hundreds of people gathered, and play began! Juniors and novice teams competed in the morning, with Garstang Juniors beating Chipping in the final, and Newbiggin winning the novice being undefeated all morning! Everyone gathered together at midday for the gospel message and presentation of the morning awards. The afternoon matches were very close, with Chipping Wildcats and Garstang making it through to the final – Garstang winning 9-7. Praise God for fine weather, safety, and fantastic numbers gathering to play and hear the Word. There are several new teams interested in joining the league in September – **please pray for the netball as it continues to grow.**



Netball Tournament South. Our fourth netball tournament at St Ronans in Hawkhurst was not without its dramas. With players not turning up, some last minute changes to key roles and a forecast for torrential rain, it could have all gone very wrong! But God is always in control. Over 30 women came to take part, plus supporters, and matches got underway. The clouds, which threatened for a while, kept away and emptied themselves over all the other surrounding local areas but not Hawkhurst. Teams played on although a player down and half way through we stopped for a gospel message. A word was shared by a speaker who had to stand in at short notice and who, only half a day earlier, had no idea what to say. To God be the glory for giving the words to speak and His Word to proclaim! The day finished in sunshine with a BBQ and with Bethersden as the winners. But, as we always say, *it's not about scoring goals, it's about saving souls.* **Please pray that the message shared will strike home and turn these netballers to Christ!**

AUSTRJA TOUR 2014

Our 21st tour to the Dachstein Region, staying at Tauernhof Torchbearer Centre, Schladming – and arguably one of the best! A small team of just 12, but what a fantastic team spirit and 100% dedication to the game and the gospel! From a footballing perspective – brilliant! Undefeated, winning 7 and drawing 3. The weather was not great for the first few days, but the brand new 3G pitch at the Schladming Stadium meant matches could go ahead. Opportunities also arose for us to play the locals, including some muslims, many of whom accepted a Bible at the end of the match, and great conversations were had. Also Sue and some of the Tauernhof girls had another match v Pichl girls!

The team also really appreciated the devotions from Graham, and from Johan Schep, the guest lecturer at Tauernhof. A new team from Selzthal, which came about from the girls' tour in October, was a highlight – very friendly and appreciative, and keen to play us again. Again a huge thank you to Jonny and the team at Tauernhof for all their hard work to help set up the tour and keep the team well fed and watered (thanks Lothar!).

A couple of highlights from the team... 'My highlight was having the opportunity to share with Kamal and the Turkish team. It was great how God had His hand in everything. When we looked like we were going to lose games to the wet weather, we had the great facility of the astro turf and with it, God gave us new teams, new friendships and more homes for Bibles and literature to go into.' Sooty

'This was my 15 tour to Austria with SportsReach and one of the best on and off the field. Although a small squad everyone worked hard for each other during the games and the Lord provided the strength we needed to keep legs and bodies going. Two highlights... the game against Selzthal where their hospitality and the sharing time was great. Secondly, a game against a predominately Muslim team where we shared the message of the Gospel and provided them with Bibles. A great tour, looking forward to next year already.' Mark Hill



'I bumped into a lady at the weekend who excitedly told me that the son of her work colleague played for Selzthal against SportsReach and is now excitedly reading his Bible!!!'



FRANCE

A number of new, younger players joining us this year made for a squad of 17 players...and what a schedule! Ten matches played over 8 days, the team splitting into two teams with a few French recruits joining us, gave fantastic opportunities for the gospel. And with the World Cup being on at the same time, teams were keen to play and then hang around for refreshments and watch the action in Brazil. We didn't actually win any matches...but it's more about saving souls than scoring goals!!! Some matches were very close, tired legs began to show later in the week, and we were playing in very high temperatures (all the excuses are coming out now!) but every credit to the French teams...they played some very good football! A lot of literature was given out, with the gospel being shared with over 200 people during our time there. Please pray for all those who heard, and all the homes with Christian literature in.

A huge thanks to all at Chateau St Albain for putting us up and putting up with us! And special thanks to Greg and family for organising matches, translating etc. What a tremendous tour, full of opportunities to spread the Word, and also to deepen our own walk with God through Will's devotions and sharing times. Roll on next year!

For more info and pictures, please see the blog on our website – www.sportsreach.org.uk



Please continue to pray for all those who heard the gospel and took literature

Forthcoming events and prayer points...

Men's and Women's 5-Aside Tournament

@ Lancaster Uni

Sat 12th July

11am - 5pm

SOCCER AND NETBALL SCHOOLS

29th July Bethersden &
Wray

6th Aug Sandhurst

20th Aug Clapham & Staines

27th Aug Gt Ecclestone

SOCCER CAMP

Bodenseehof,
Germany

6th - 13th September

AUSTRIA LADIES TOUR

24th - 31st Oct

AUSTRIA CLASSICS

26th Sept - 3rd Oct

More players needed for
this tour - please contact
will@sportsreach.org.uk

Please pray for the
leagues as they start up
again in September, and
for pre-season friendlies,
both football and netball.



Find us on **FACEBOOK**
Sports Reach

www.sportsreach.org.uk
office@sportsreach.org.uk

SportsReach, 57 Lancaster Road, Carnforth, Lancs,
England, LA5 9LE Tel: (+44)01524 730000