



Autumn 2017



'The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much' James 5:16

SPORTSREACH

Reaching the world for Christ through sport

What a summer!!

This summer has been a **very humbling time**. We have been privileged to see God working in amazing ways as He drew a number of youngsters to Himself. We saw older boys coming with **tears of repentance**. We saw God prompting coaches to pray for specific children, who then **came to know the Lord** for themselves. We saw God moving in the lives of many coaches as **their faith grew**, as they saw God moving. I believe we saw a glimpse of what God wants to do when His people humble themselves and **pray and persist in prayer**.

I remember talking to Graham Stamford when he was stepping down from his position as director of SportsReach and I was asking him questions about the years he had been working at SportsReach and he summed up his whole time by saying that he felt like a small boy sat down, watching and witnessing a big God at work, and I feel like that is the best way I can describe this summer.

Thank you for praying. Please continue to persist in prayer.

John



Fun at Wray netball school!



Weekends Away!

SOUTH

16th – 18th Feb

@ ElmTree Farm.

Mersham, nr Ashford

NORTH

2nd – 4th March

@Knock Christian Centre,

Nr Appleby

Please pray for the leagues, and the Ladies' Football Tour to Austria, 21st – 29th October

Soccer and netball school highlights and comments...

A word from Sooty...

One of many highlights from the summer was Ripon soccer & netball school. God had given the fellowship a clear vision to go out and reach the local community with the Good News of Jesus, and to run a soccer and netball school. The faith of the folks was so evident, even when numbers were as low as 5 with only a week to go. They set aside special time to pray for more children to sign up, as well as going out into the streets to bring the children in free of charge. God honoured them with 25 children coming along to the S&N School and many showing an interest in what it is to be a follower of Jesus. Fantastic to see God at work in the Church and in the community.



Equipment ready for off!



"My daughter has absolutely loved it! She has been so well behaved at home this week and has been getting up early and getting her stuff ready each day. Normally she drops out of things but has been keen to come every day."



SportsReach Coaches v Ley Hill Youth



Boys with their new Bibles!

Such a great summer! So many kids came asking for Bibles, which is always a highlight. Ordering and distributing Bibles in Farsi, Dari and Somali was another highlight! The picture above of coaches v Ley Hill Youth was a great night too. I was injured, so didn't play in the match, but at the end John (whose brother was part of the opposition!) asked me to share testimony, which is always a privilege, and God was definitely a part of this impromptu gathering!



Giving Bibles

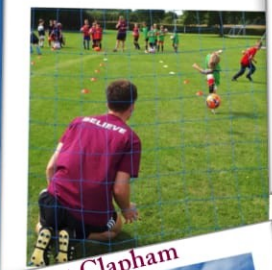
Another great event took place spontaneously during the coaches v parents match at Sandhurst. Some of the local lads had come for a match against us, but as the coaches were busy playing the parents, we asked the 'elite' (many of whom are Christians, and some became believers through coming to the soccer school) to play against them. At the end, **two of the Elite shared testimony with the lads**, and so it continues...reaching the world for Christ through sport!! In fact, some of the young coaches have started a **fortnightly Bible study** for youths from soccer schools, **please pray for them!** Sue

"Such a wonderful blessed week. We thank the Lord so much for SportsReach and for you all."



Tent full at Wray!

My daughter loved her time with you. It's a long time since I've seen her so enthused about anything! Thank you."



Blue skies at Clapham



Legendary Sunday Lunch @ Wray



Saturday afternoon message to the parents



5 Aside Tournament

On Saturday 8th of July we held our annual men's 5aside tournament at Lancaster University. This year we had 9 teams entered and we played a **round robin league**, with the top 4 teams going into the semi finals. In the semi finals Ingleton progressed 2-1 over Pegasus Pumas (who had a 3.5 hour journey to be with us from Leominster) and Great Eccleston beat Crown Lane 4-2. The final was a thriller, with Ingleton getting the winning goal in the final moments of the game to win 4-3 over last years' champions, Great Eccleston. Half way through the afternoon we had a short break from the football, to hear **Thomas Angus** share about the powerful transformation that Jesus had made in his life. It was a great time as the Holy Spirit was at work and **we saw lads responding to the message!** Praise God! Please pray that the guys who responded would grow in their faith, knowledge and experience of the risen Jesus. Thanks to all who were involved in a great day!

*****Please pray... for those who committed their lives to God over the summer, for the Youth Bible Studies, Lizzie's netball in Kent and Tim's football outreach in the Midlands*****

And there's more...! Bodenseehof Soccer Camp, Germany

After a 3-year gap it was great to be back with the team at **Bodenseehof** and running the soccer camp together. Although a relatively low number of young people signed up – nineteen 12 to 16 year olds - it was brilliant to get to know them all and to be able to spend quality time with them. At the start of the week they were just names on a list, but quickly became people we were privileged to get to know and to share the gospel with.

It was a **full, fun packed week** with lots of football coaching and matches each day, games evenings and even a trip to the local bowling alley one evening, which to Tommy's delight was aptly named Seaside after his favourite team 'The Seaside!' Several older teens from previous soccer camps also came along to visit us! It was great to see them again and to hear of them going on with God.

The messages each day were shared between us with each morning session led by one of the team from Bodenseehof, looking at **names of Jesus** and each evening session led by one of the SportsReach team looking at John 3:16 – Believe! At the end of the week it was a real joy to see several enquiring how to begin to **follow Jesus** and others greatly encouraged in their walk with Him. A personal highlight was praying with a teenage boy, who I had had good conversations with over the week walking to and from the football pitch, and seeing him begin to **trust in Jesus**.



Classics tours...

This summer saw two Classics tours. The first was our second visit to Germany and to the region of Ulm. Seven of us travelled over from the UK and we joined several of our German friends there to make up a team, which played 3 games against local sides, Kirchberg, Wein, Böhen and a game against the church youth at Erolzheim. We were given a very warm welcome by all of the teams and after some great games of football we were treated to fantastic BBQ's and great times of fellowship as we enjoyed the German sunshine and the stunning countryside. It was good to engage with several players we met last year and also to meet some new teams who listened very well as we shared the message and gave out literature. We have been invited to return again next year.

Whilst there we also had the privilege of taking part in the Sunday morning service and Sue spoke at a **ladies' breakfast** on the Monday morning, with towards 50 ladies attending! Her testimony, which brought tears as well as laughter, resonated powerfully with one lady who had been invited along for the first time that morning and Sue was able to pray with her afterwards. Praise the Lord for His appointments.

The second tour was in September and was our 7th year of taking a Classics team to Tauernhof Austria! 5 games in a week is quite a tall order for a Classics team, but they rose to the challenge admirably with the aim of 'the more we play, the more opportunities we have to share with others about Jesus!'

The first game was against a refugee team based in Salzburg. We had made a connection there in May and returned to play a different team this time, albeit their average age would be significantly lower than ours, maybe only by a decade or two though! The players were almost all from Afghanistan and all Muslim apart from a couple who had converted to Christianity, one sharing after how he was threatened with his life by a work colleague for reading his Bible back in Afghanistan! A different world to ours and amazing how we wouldn't have freedom to go and share the gospel in Afghanistan, yet because they have had to flee their homeland we are able to freely share the gospel with them. As the clear and direct gospel message was shared it was being translated from English into Farsi, German, Spanish and Somalian so all who were there could understand it! At the end we offered the few bibles we had in Farsi and Arabic and these were eagerly taken and we had to order more for those who still wanted them, as well as ordering one in the Somali language for another of the players! Praise the Lord for His work and His Word.

Another highlight was hearing two Austrian players, who have been saved in previous years, sharing very clearly and directly with their teammates the difference Jesus has made in their lives. It is great to see the fruit of many years of sowing and we look forward to celebrating 25 years of taking a team over to Austria next May. Thanks to Tauernhof for all their support and help as we have partnered together with the gospel.

Please pray for our league teams...

Football – Saturdays and Wednesdays

11 aside

Fulwood

Great Eccleston

Lancaster

Loko Wray

Moorlands

Preston City Mission

Quernmore

5 aside

Capernwray Staff

Capernwray Students

Carnforth

Chipping

Crown Lane

Galgate

Ingleton

Real VVV

Wray

Young Guns

Netball – Wednesday evenings

Division 1

Chipping Topcats

Chipping Wildcats

Garstang Diamonds

Garstang Sapphires

Lancaster Royals

Mantawrays

Preston Swallows

Stingwrays

Westhouse Thunder

Division 2

Bluebelles

Chipping Merecats

Heysham Harriers

Lancaster Roses

Pantherwrays

Quernmore Jets

Quernmore Rubies

Westhouse Lightning

Division 3

Babybelles

Eaglewrays

Electricwrays

Heysham Halos

Lancaster Lions

Preston Amazons

Quernmore Sparkles

Style



Thanks to your prayers, we have 2 new teams in the league – Preston City Mission and Moorlands

Roses and Harriers share the Word



International team of students from Capernwray Hall win their first match!

PRAYER POINTS...

- League managers, players and officials, and for good weather to enable matches to be played
- Next years' programme and theme for soccer and netball schools
- Planning for tours and mission trips
- Opportunities, and the manpower and finance to make the most of them!
- **THAT GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED AND CHRIST WOULD BE MADE KNOWN!**