



7 summer soccer and netball schools, reaching almost 400 children, plus parents, with the gospel!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE LEAGUES – NETBALL (25 TEAMS, WED EVENINGS) 11 ASIDE FOOTBALL (7 TEAMS, SAT AFT + 12 TEAMS IN CUP) AND 5 ASIDE (10 TEAMS, WED EVENINGS)

SportsReach October 2016

Reaching the world for Christ through sport

What a summer!!!

Thank you for praying – God did amazing things!!

A full five weeks of soccer and netball schools – and a great harvest! Almost 400 children attended the summer camps. Playing fields were a hive of activity, classrooms and church halls were filled with laughter, excitement, prayer and praise, churches were packed for awards services – and in every place the gospel was preached! Many children, and parents, committed their lives to God over the summer – and you were a part of that! Enjoy reading the highlights from churches and families who were touched by 'The Life Changer'!



Coaches' prayer time before the children come



Netball fun at Staines



*Making friends...
sharing Christ ☺*

Malawi Mission Trip 2016

23 Oct – 4 Nov

Prayer and support needed!
See enclosed schedule and see how you can help...

Pray for more open doors to take the gospel to the sporting world, and for hearts to be open to the good news wherever we go... to the glory of God!

Soccer and netball schools...

Staines Upon Thames...

This year we moved venue to Bucklands Primary School, and it worked really well! Two good netball courts, plenty of space on the football field for junior and senior football pitches, and lots of indoor space for Bible time and Gospel assemblies.

It was great to have so many from the church at the Tuesday night prayer meeting before the soccer started on the Wednesday – it makes a huge difference to the week knowing that it is covered in prayer. And on Sunday morning, the church was packed with kids and parents. Here is a comment which one mum put on the SportsReach Facebook page at the end of the week...

*'Can I just say one of the **biggest 'thank you's** I have ever had to give. My son has just finished his 4 day SportsReach program at Buckland School in Staines and I have never seen him **so excited, happy** and as part of a team as everyone there has made him.*

He is a quiet, shy and very emotional child and has very low self-esteem and anxiety. He started the week off very worried and scared about meeting new people, but as soon as the end of the first day, he was bouncing off the walls with how much he loved it.

He got a 'transfer' to 'Brazilian Bananas' and everyone was so accepting and made him feel so welcome.

*He **loves all the coaches** and has already expressed that he will miss them so much. But has already asked to come back next year.*

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts; you really made my son forget his worries, even if it was for a short time; he was free.

Keep up the fantastic and rewarding work you do.'



Packed hall for the awards ceremony



Lined up for the world cup finals!



Fantastic weather for outdoor gospel meeting!

Biddenden, Kent

Our first time at Biddenden, working with Church on the Weald, Tenterden... and what a week it was! God blessed us with sunshine, great coaches and facilities, and the kids were amazing! Even when the electric was off one day, we had a great time doing the meeting outdoors in the shade of a tree!

One highlight came from a young boy who was attending his first SportsReach soccer school. Quite a shy boy and a bit unsure, but after the first day he had gone home and told his parents - **'That was the best day ever! SportsReach is my favourite thing!'** And it's always a good sign when parents ask for dates for next year so they can plan their holidays round it and book their children in!



Bible time in the squash court 😊

CARNFORTH... snippets from parents

*'Thank you so much for giving my two children such a memorable and enjoyable week! They have both loved the activities and from a parent's point of view, it has been **superbly organised** and the children have felt **extremely valued**.*

We will be booking for next year without a doubt! Best wishes, Mum!'

*'I just wanted to let you know that my son has just done his first ever soccer school! **He has loved every minute of it** and is really down in the dumps tonight now it's all over!!! What a fantastic thing you have created!!! I've known about Sports Reach for years but never been involved in any way; **thank you so much** for giving the kids this awesome opportunity to play sport and learn about Jesus!!!*

Thank you again Sue, you've made my boy's week fabulous 😊'

Thank you for praying for the summer soccer and netball schools!!

Clapham, N Yorks

I have been asked by Sue to write a few lines about Clapham soccer and netball week in August, from a 'grans' perspective. This year we had a different venue, Austwick playing fields, which we all thought was ideal. The meetings and lunches were held in the nearby primary school – which again is 'just the job'.

Every year we are thrilled as grandparents to have some of our grandchildren taking part – this year 6 of them! It's wonderful that some of them are now coaches, **what a blessing SportsReach is.**

I love making lunches for all the coaches (17 this time). They do such a fantastic job teaching the young folk new skills, but most of all I love to see them in 'Bible Time' groups, learning about the **most wonderful life on earth!** Also in the meetings after lunch it is so encouraging seeing some of our own young coaches taking part and standing tall for Jesus.

The Lord gave us sunshine and dry days! **The Sunday Awards Service is what I really look forward to** – to see our chapel packed with children, parents and friends. **What a great time we had;** good to see the children receive their

medals and trophies, and **John gave such a challenging message** and testimony, followed by lunch. It was great that two children asked Jesus to be their Saviour – how we need to pray for them as they grow up and go on in their faith.

For me - as a gran – **it was a fab week,** I loved all that went on – roll on next year!! *Irene*



Reactions warm-up!



Coaches de-brief and prayer time

Sandhurst, Kent

A few snippets from the week...69 participants with whom the Gospel was shared clearly and with 3 younger children and 3 of the Elite group asking Jesus into their lives and several taking Bible notes and visibly challenged. **One of the 15 year old lads immediately started attending church.** We had 21 coaches, one of whom responded to the closing prayer on the Sunday morning. The coaches did a great job in engaging with the children and clearly found the fellowship they shared with one another to be uplifting. A spin off of previous Soccer schools was the contact with lads and men from a local village football team. Impromptu matches were set up with an opportunity for sharing the Gospel.

On the Sunday morning we had around 180 people at the Award Service where Sue gave a stirring testimony. A comment heard coming from a non-Christian...'inspirational'! *Liz Slater*



Packed church at Wray

Wray, nr Lancaster

It was GREAT to have netball at Wray for the first time! We squeezed a court onto the playing field alongside the football, and had 15 girls along, having GREAT FUN! **A fantastic week,** here's what one mum said... 'My son has been attending SportsReach soccer schools for the last 3 years...since he was 7 years old. He was **so excited** when he reached 7 because he had been waiting all year to go to the soccer school with his friends. **He loves them so much** that he not only attends our local one at Wray but also attends Brookhouse and Clapham to join in with the children there. SportsReach is fantastic for children of all levels of ability and confidence. The **coaches are excellent** with the children and are very passionate about ensuring that all of the children are included in the teams and have lots of fun together. My son has made several good friends at SportsReach and has learnt lots of new football skills. Since he started 3 years ago he has won several coaches awards for his participation in both football matches and in bible time and has won lots of medals. He loves the mixture of **learning about Jesus as well as learning about football.** Every year I now have to plan my leave from work and our family summer holiday around soccer school!! My son hopes one day to be able to be a SportsReach coach so that he can share the skills that he has learnt and the messages of Jesus with other children.

Great Eccleston, Lancs

Praise the Lord for a great week at Gt Ecc! Again superb weather, great interaction with the kids, and lives changed! Good discussions in Bible time, great competitive and fun sporting activities, and a packed church on the Sunday morning – several highlights, one was receiving a message from a lad in the seniors who committed his life to God during the Awards Service; and hearing that 2 young lads also gave their lives to Jesus - Praise God! We also got a message from a very excited gran telling us her grandson had been saved during the week!



Pray for Malawi Mission trip – 23rd Oct – 4th Nov

It is 7 years since we last went to Malawi with **Starfish Malawi!** Please pray for this amazing opportunity! The team... Will, Sue, Ruth and Sarah Marsden, Richard and Samuel Sutton, Lizzie Hyde and Oliver Jackson. The mission... coaching sport, schools work, visit orphanage, sharing Christ. This is an outline of our schedule so far...

DATE	ACTIVITY MORNING HOURS	ACTIVITY AFTERNOON HOURS	VENUE
25/10/2016	School assembly from 7:30 am	Adult tournament football and netball	Chimweta school.
26/10/2016	School assembly from 7:30am at Kalonga school	Soccer school with Chimweta, Kalonga, Msalura and Chigombe schools from 2pm-4:30pm.	Chimweta school
27/10/2016	School assembly from 7:30am at Msalura school.	Soccer school continues from 2pm-4:30pm	Chimweta school.
28/10/2016	School assembly from 7:30am at Chigombe school.	Soccer school continues from 2pm-4:30pm	Chimweta school.
29/10/2016	Visiting G.T.O.C Children's Club and Gateway products from 9am-11am.	Finals day for the schools tournament 2pm-4:30pm	Chimweta School.
30/10/2016	Going to churches		
31/10/2016	Visit to Moyo nursery and visit sponsored children. From 9am -10am	Soccer school with remote schools Chokombola, Mtumbira, Simaiwa and Kaputu from 2pm-4:30pm	Simaiwa school
01/11/2016	School assembly from 7:30am at Mtumbira school	Soccer school continues 2pm-4:30pm	Simaiwa school
02/11/2016	Visiting the lake/visiting Kuti etc	The same as morning hours.	

We have been able to send a lot of equipment over in a container, which we will leave out there, but hope to take more. We hope to give out Bibles at various events in their native language. If you would like to support the trip financially and help us provide netballs/footballs/goals/bibs/literature etc, please use the address below, and mark the envelope '**SportsReach Malawi**', making cheques payable to **SportsReach**. Or make a direct bank transfer to **SportsReach, Sort Code 20-47-61 Acc No 00780723**. Thank you for your continued support – follow us on Facebook for up-to-date photos and reports of the trip!