

SPORTSREACH



WINTER PRAYER LETTER 2019

Happy New Year to you all! It is a joy to write, I have so much to tell you! Firstly, **THANK YOU** for praying; it makes a **HUGE** difference. We have travelled many thousands of miles since our last letter, met many amazing people, and seen many, many saved! Praise the Lord for His faithfulness, grace and mercy!

LEAGUES - these are in full flow and it is **so great** to see people who have been saved through SportsReach, now **heading up teams** in the leagues and sharing gospel messages and testimonies, **so that others might be saved!** PLEASE pray on, this work is not without it's challenges, but pray that God would be glorified in it ALL and that many, many more might be saved in 2019!

KENYA – what a trip! It was 8 years since we were there, and we felt that the time was right to return... and the timing was perfect! Working with **Pastors Hudson and Omido**, we spent the first week in Lumakanda and Chimoi where Omido had put on a fantastic programme. We had **school assemblies** every day, and they were so welcoming and open to the gospel. Morning **Pastors' Conferences** were well attended – in fact, at Chimoi a whole football team came to the Bible teaching sessions because there was not room for them in the football tournament, and most of them got saved!! Pastor's were encouraged, and soaked up the teaching. Each afternoon we had **sports outreach** – football and netball – with church teams, school teams and village teams. These were a great success, with Will, Ruth and Samuel joining the teams, Sooty and Sue reffing and umpiring, and then one of us sharing testimony or a gospel drama and message to the hundreds who gathered – and hundreds responded! Praise God! Also in the programme was an '**open air preach**' and the showing of the 'Jesus' film in the village square – which several hundred gathered to watch, and **many responded** after Will shared the gospel. It was quite a night!

On the Sunday we split and went to three different churches, and had great times of fellowship and worship. Then back to Lumakanda for the climax of the week – the **tournament finals!** The village was buzzing, the crowds gathered, the pitches were lined with spectators, and there was even a gazebo and match commentator! Rain almost stopped play, (and boy did it rain!) but the Lord reigned His love down upon the crowds as Will shared the gospel, and again, **many were saved!**

After a great week we travelled south to Njoro for a few days at Pastor Hudson's church and community. We went into the **Polytechnic College** and freely preached the Good News, and 9 young adults responded. We visited the **local hospital**, which gave opportunity for Hudson to follow up. And we did more **sports** - not as many crowds, but many people made solid commitments to the Lord, and their names were taken for follow up. Morning **Bible teachings and Church Revival meetings** were a real blessing, and the presence and power of the Lord were felt. Such joy!

Homeward bound, exhausted...but so glad that the Lord opened the door for our return to Kenya. And already we plan to go back – June this year! We plan to take a full football team, and run a similar programme to last year – building on what has been established. **PLEASE PRAY** for the right team to come together, and for Omido and Hudson as they follow up, and prepare for the next mission. **Sue**



SOOTY'S KENYA HIGHLIGHT

The Poly is my highlight...having the opportunity to share the Good News and seeing those young people standing in front of there class hands held up, heads bowed down as they accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord. Amazing when God touches hearts and lives are changed! Praise God!



SAMUEL'S KENYA HIGHLIGHT

My highlight was the adult football and netball tournaments. It was great to see hundreds and even a few thousand people gather round to watch the games. The bit that stood out to me the most was that the vast majority, if not all, were willing to listen to us share about Jesus and the change that He could make in their lives. At the end of each message the pastor we were working with made an appeal and so many chose to give their life to the Lord, both players and crowd.



RUTH'S KENYA HIGHLIGHT

A highlight for me was just being able to go into so many schools and freely share the Gospel with the children and the teachers! It was such a privilege and joy to interact with the children and to share the love of Christ with them. My prayer is that these children will know the hope and the joy that Jesus brings and that they will choose Him and make Him their King. "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14



NEPAL MISSION 2018

Ruth and I were privileged to travel to Nepal with our good friends Mervyn and Lucy France to visit their **children's home** and local churches, pastors, building projects, and children who have grown up in the home and now moved on and married. What an amazing experience! This was my fourth trip with Mervyn and Lucy to Asia in 3 years, each one is special and unique, and it was such a joy for Ruth and I to spend time at the home. Rishi and Basun, who run the home, made us so very welcome, as did the children! We spent hours **playing sports** with them. I love the way the Lord just provides us with

football pitches wherever we go – just a 3-minute walk from the home is a huge pitch which is used for regional tournaments, and we had such fun playing football, netball and volleyball with the children! Many of the children come from challenging backgrounds, but here they are shown such love, and taught the Word of God. Each evening we shared in their **worship time**. One night I was able to share testimony with the children, and was very moved to see their response to the Lord after I shared from **Isaiah 41:13** – they all knelt and asked God to hold their right hand through life! The presence of God was overwhelming, and we were so blessed.



As well as the sport and time at the home, we travelled many miles, met some amazing men and women of God, prayed with those who mourned the sudden loss of a loved one, inspected new church builds, visited homes, and had great fellowship. We also met the regional chairman of the football association, and it is our prayer that in the future we will return for football outreach on a bigger scale. At the moment, it is illegal to preach the gospel in the open air – but with God, all things are possible.

Thank you for praying – God is at work in Nepal, the church is growing. **Pray for more** openings for sports evangelism, and for God to be made known! **Sue**



'Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.' Psalm 2:8

SPORTSREACH COMMISSIONING SERVICE

27th January, 2:30pm at Capernwray Hall

Refreshments, swimming pool and sports hall are available after the service. All are welcome!

DIARY DATES 2019

Weekend Away North

Knock, Appleby

8th – 10th Feb

Weekend Away South

Elm Tree Farm, Ashford
22nd – 24th Feb

SPORTSREACH TOURS

FRANCE

23rd April – 1st May

AUSTRIA

May (date tbc)

PRAYER POINTS

LEAGUE MEALS

Netball – 9th March

Football – 2nd May

KENYA MISSION

7th – 18th June