



SportsReach

Summer 2013

...reports and pics of the spring events, plus what's coming up this summer, as we 'reach the world for Christ through sport'

*"Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!
Remember His marvellous works which He has done." Psalm 105:5*

Looking back...Looking forward... Looking up!!!

This year has already been one where we have been able to look back and remember His marvellous works which He has done! It has seen our 20th anniversary tour to Austria and our 10th anniversary tour to France and as we read reports of netball tournaments north and south, reports of the 5aside tournament and of soccer and netball schools, it is a joy to remember all He has done and to rejoice and praise and thank Him!!

I remembered, as I prepared to share the gospel at the 5aside tournament last Saturday, a young man from Carnforth, who 2 years ago at the first 5aside tournament we held, gave his life to the Lord that afternoon and is now working aboard a boat that serves as a small Bible school in Greece!

I remember receiving an e-mail from a young man in Austria, telling how, through our visits and through the testimonies and messages we had shared, he had now found Jesus for himself.

I remember a young lady beginning to come and play in the netball league and after hearing the messages shared and beginning to go to church, she was saved and now has a passion for the lost and is involved in several areas of our ministry.

As we look around at some of the young men and women now coming along as coaches and joining us on tour we remember how they used to come and take part in our soccer schools, gave their hearts to the Lord, and now they are leading others to Christ! It is a real joy to hear young folk share that it was at a soccer school that they began to follow Christ and to see them going on with God. When we look *back*, we have to look *up* as they are His marvellous works which HE HAS DONE!!!

Yet we have also to look forward! And just as in looking back we must look up and acknowledge that it is His work that we have the privilege of being involved with, so too in looking forward we must look up and seek Him for the strength to go forward with the gospel and see many more lives changed. We have a full summer of soccer and netball schools coming up, 2 camps for teenagers in Germany and the "Classics" tour to Austria for the over 30's in late September. A full and tiring schedule, yet He not only gives us His strength but also many joys and blessings as we serve Him and see Him move and answer your prayers.

As we look forward we see that there are still so many that need to hear the good news of Jesus, both here and overseas. Will you continue to help us reach them with your prayers? **Please pray...**

- that over this summer many would come to the soccer and netball schools, and many would be saved, both children and parents alike. Join us in praying for household salvation.
- for wisdom as we seek to plan our overseas trips for 2014.
- for the growth and financial support of the ministry.
- **particularly** for the men's football league which will start in September; as one friend said to me recently, "I don't know of any other ministry that reaches out to young men like this." Please pray that more churches would see the value of the league and want to be involved and that more men would be willing to step up and run a team that gives the opportunity for young men to hear the gospel each weekend; and please pray that a harvest would be reaped this next season.

Thank you for being a part of SportsReach by faithfully praying for us and for supporting us practically and financially. God bless, *Will*



Please pray for our Summer Sports Schools

24 th - 28 th July	Gt Eccleston, Lancs
31 st July - 4 th Aug	Bethersden, Kent & Wray, Lancs (evenings)
7 th - 11 th Aug	Clapham, Yorks
14 th - 18 th Aug	Sandhurst, Kent
21 st - 25 th Aug	Tunbridge Wells
27 th - 30 th Aug	Clayton-Le-Moors
28 th Aug - 1 st Sept	Staines
31 st Aug - 7 th Sept	Bodenseehof, Germany

ALSO...

ALL DAY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT Saturday 7th September @ Carnforth, Lancs
NETBALL & FOOTBALL LEAGUES begin September
MENS & WOMEN'S 5-ASIDE LEAGUES
See website for more details

Austria Classics Tour

27 Sept-4 Oct 2013

for age 30+

why not join us...

4 games of football

Bible teaching at Tauernhof

Daily team devotions

Fun and fellowship

GET INVOLVED!

Why not join us on tour, at a soccer or netball school, or join a league this autumn! Reach out to your friends through sport!!

NEW WEBSITE!!!

By mid July we hope to have our new site up and running...check it out for more info of what's going on at SportsReach!!

Germany Soccer Camp

28 Oct - 2 Nov 2013

for age 12-15yrs

why not join us...

football coaching

outdoor activities

Daily Bible time

Fun and fellowship

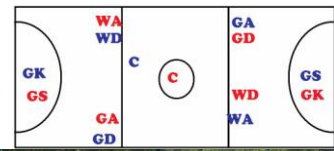
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Netball north...and south!



Tournament day 'up north'



Sunshine in the south!

Saturday 22nd of June saw our 9th Netball Tournament at Garstang High School, Lancs. With a damp start at 10am, the 4 Junior Teams and 4 Novice teams competed in the morning, with Garstang teams winning both sections. The weather faired up, and the main tournament in the afternoon was played in bright sunshine, and 10 teams battled it out...again, after some great matches, it was Garstang coming out on top! At lunch time, everyone came together to hear the gospel message (see pic above) presented in a **clear and relevant way** by Suzanne Smith. We thank God for safety, good weather (mostly!), for the 18 teams which entered, for a great atmosphere...but most of all for the great opportunity to share the **greatest news we could ever hear!**

The Netball League starts in September, please pray for a good number of teams, and the right balance of Christian and non-Christian players on each team, for managers, and for a great sense of unity with one main aim - **to see netballers come to Christ!** Thank you! Sue



Garstang Senior & Junior Teams lift the cup!

All-day action at the tournament



Netball South – Lizzie Hyde

It's hard to believe that this year has been our third year of netball in the South. Praise God that He has sustained us and that we have continued opportunities to share the gospel. We had our **league dinner on Saturday 11th May**. It was a great evening and most players were able to come. Christine (Amanda, our Cranbrook team manager's mum), shared her testimony about how God had worked powerfully at different stages of her life. At the end of the evening, Liz Slater offered the girls the opportunity to get involved in a course about Christianity and quite a few have shown interest. We are going to set a date to start soon. **Please pray** that many will have the courage to come along and that they will come to know Christ as their personal saviour.

Our tournament was on **Saturday 8th June** and 5 teams were involved. The day really couldn't have gone better.

The weather was perfect, the teams were on top form and **John Hamilton**, from London City Mission, shared testimony and from John 8 verse 12, bringing along his Olympic torch as a prop! Everyone listened well and John spent time with many of the girls afterwards, challenging them on what they'd heard and made some real breakthroughs! **Praise God** for such a great day and for the privilege of seeing Him at work right in front of our eyes. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for more breakthroughs and for sinners to be saved!

Our **Canterbury Tournament and Awards Dinner** also went well. I had the privilege of sharing a direct gospel message on both occasions and we thank God for the many opportunities over the season to share with the ladies.

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season." 2 Timothy 4 v 2

Football...football...football!!



Hearing the gospel



Brothers compete in the semis!

The Men's 5Aside Tournament was held again this year at Lancaster University, 29th June. 11 teams entered; winners on the day were Ingleton, runners-up Valley. Great day, great weather, great message... great God! This *has* to be one of the best ways of reaching young men with the gospel.



Ingleton + Valley

Pictures from the Men's 5aside Tournament 29th June @ Lancaster

10th YEAR FRANCE TOUR 5th – 14th June 2013

This year there were 12 men who came on the **Sportsreach France Football Tour**, coming from various places around England, and with a token Aussie who we welcomed as a brother! The schedule was for us to play 7 games in 8 days, including a **7 aside tournament** which went on into the early hours! We were very privileged to be able to share the Gospel with these teams after each game, apart from the 7 aside tournament, where the team showed Christ on the pitch and took opportunities to speak to individuals and give out literature.

This year we played a few new teams who were based closer to Macon, which Greg, an American, French speaking missionary, had organised. It was amazing to meet so many new players for the first time, and a lot of these new teams were **incredibly welcoming!** Iges were one of the new teams that we were able to play, and they had translated a message to give to us before the game and were fantastically hospitable. We were able to have amazing God given opportunities to share with them! Praise The Lord!!

One key theme of the France tour seemed to be, however, that no matter how much we attempt to plan things ... God will bring about **His** will in whatever way **He** has planned it, to **His** glory! Some of the best opportunities we had to share such as the 7 aside tournament, 3 of our games and the appearance of Michelle, a Lyon coach who wanted to come to one of the games with us, were not there because we'd planned it, but because **God had opened a door to the Gospel** for us there and we just couldn't pass it up!

There were many amazing things that God did and showed us as a team out in France, including in His Word as we looked at Joshua together, led by Andy Thomas... which was amazing!

But most of all the Tour was a testament to the fact that God is thoroughly committed to the spread of the Gospel ... And He is the one at work calling people to Himself, and all He calls us to do is **to take each opportunity** He gives us to preach the Gospel faithfully. **Please continue to pray** for those we met in France and for Greg as he follows up on the work done.

In Christ

Simon Gregory

John joined a French team for the 7aside tournament!

Making friends, sharing Christ...



Sharing with kids at the Chateau

CATON SPORTSREACH SOCCER AND NETBALL SCHOOL

At the end of May we held a SportsReach 4 Day Soccer and Netball School. 70 children attended (more than we have ever had before!), 49 footballers and 21 netballers. This was our third all day soccer and netball school, having previously run an evening only soccer school. Along with a team of coaches, assistant coaches and helpers we all had a fantastic time. The weather was ideal for playing sport. It was great to see the school field and playground full of children enjoying themselves and learning new skills.

The theme of the week was 'In the beginning'

On the first day the message shared was titled 'In the beginning'. We went back to the creation story. Day two was 'Crossing the line' and how we have all crossed God's line and that there is a penalty for doing so. On Friday we looked at 'Bridging The Gap' and saw how Jesus came to bridge the gap. The children were shown a sketch which showed how in the beginning God and man lived together but how man crossed the line and the relationship with God was broken. Man can try many things, attending church, reading the Bible, giving to the poor, but none of these can get the relationship back. Then God sent his son Jesus to stand in the gap and with one hand holding God's hand he reaches the other out to us. Day 4 was 'Making the Choice'.

On the Sunday morning we held the **awards service and lunch**. It was great to see the Church full again with all the children and parents, with only a couple of the children unable to make the service. *Tim and Amelia Preece*



SportsReach Burma!

Earlier this year, we were able to donate some surplus t-shirts to Wyresdale Children's Homes, via our good friends Mervyn and Lucy France. These children in Burma were very pleased with the gift!



Dear friends, just a note to thank you for your prayers over the last couple of months, when I was diagnosed with breast cancer the day we went on the Austria tour! God has been so faithful, and given me great peace before the operation and during recovery. He has also given me great opportunities to share JESUS! HE is our hope, our joy, our strength, and when the storms come, on Christ the solid rock we stand! What a mighty God we serve!
Isaiah 41 v 13. *In His grip, See x*

