

# SPORTS REACH



*Spring 2020*

**Dear friends,**

As one person put it recently 'we are living in strange times' and that is so true. Uncertain times with fear and anxiety gripping so many in our country and world, and so many normal everyday activities being postponed and cancelled as our leaders try to combat the spread of COVID-19.

At times like this we need to remember the certainty that **God is still in control** and many of the Psalms contain great truths we can take strength, comfort and reassurance in. Psalm 46 is particularly encouraging – **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...the Lord of hosts is with us....be still and know that I am God."**

God is still with us and is still at work. We are thankful for all that He has done and also all that He *will* do in the days and weeks ahead. We trust that as you read you will be encouraged by the report from Ecuador and with the various events that managed to take place recently, but also ask that you would pray on, both with us and for us as a ministry, but also for our nation and that many would turn to God at this time.

## PRAISE POINTS

**ECUADOR - Praise God** for the **AMAZING** time that we had out in Ecuador, sharing the **Good News of our Saviour** with the local children and adults, working along side Mark & Nube Vogan and their family, who serve the Lord over there with OMS. We ran a **6 day Soccer Camp with over 300 children** (over the 6 days) from the local area, coaching them football and teaching them the truths of God's Word and pointing them to Jesus! It was great to see the children take it all in and many of them received Christ for themselves!!! Whilst we shared with the children, many of the parents stayed and one of the men from the church held a **Bible study** with them everyday whilst the soccer camp was running! It was amazing to see **God answer our prayers** daily with the weather and with the increased number of children each day! A highlight was that a weekly women's football outreach was established whilst we were there with mums whose children had attended the soccer camp. Sue was able to share at the first one from John 14:6.

Whilst we were there, we also had the opportunity to run a **Sports Evangelism training weekend** with 45 of the youth and families from the church. It was great to see how eager they are to carry on the work even after we've left – please pray for them as they seek to and have already started doing this. Also please pray for them at this time as the whole country is currently on lockdown.

**Thank you for all your prayers whilst we were away**, we really appreciate them and they were definitely answered! **PRAISE GOD!**

**NETBALL LEAGUE MEAL** - Praise God for a great evening at Capernwray Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> March as we gathered together to celebrate the Netball season. Around 160 ladies attended in total from all of the teams in the league. Our guest speaker, Lauren Jackson, shared with us the difference that God has made in her life and also an encouraging and challenging message. **We want to thank God** that we were able to hold this event before the recent restrictions were put in place. We ask that you would continue to pray for all those who have heard the Gospel many times over the season but haven't yet responded – **please pray that they will realise their need of Christ in their lives!**



**5 ASISDE LEAGUE** – Praise God for a great season with 13 teams. We had a **powerful message** shared each week with the lads. Please continue to pray for them now the season is over that in these challenging times they remember the messages they have heard and that they turn to God.

**SCHOOLS WORK** – Praise God for all the recent openings that we've had in schools. Sooty and Ruth had a great time teaching Walk Through The Bible with the older pupils at both Halton Primary and Arkholme Primary. They had many **deep and challenging 'question and answer' sessions** and have since been back for follow up classes and assemblies.

Sooty and James had a great time at Ripley St Thomas' Spirituality Day, teaching the yr 7s about **'Exploring Christianity'**, and many took literature to discover more for themselves.



*Ladies Football - Ecuador!*



*SportsReach Ecuador Team!*

## PRAYER POINTS

- **We have recently had to cancel so many of our events.** Please pray for all that would have heard the Gospel in the weeks and months ahead through the activities of SportsReach:
  - For the children and families that would have heard through Soccer and Netball Schools
  - For the players in the football and netball leagues
  - For the children, families and footballers in France and Germany
- Having to cancel the Easter Soccer and Netball schools will have a **huge impact** on our **financial situation**. Please pray that God will continue to provide for SportsReach but also for the many organisations and businesses that find themselves in financial difficulties.
- Please pray that postponed events would be able to be rescheduled and that events still in place at the time of writing, especially **Kenya** and the **summer Soccer and Netball Schools**, would be able to go ahead.
- Please pray that all those we have had the opportunity to share the Good News with previously would recall the words they have heard and **turn to Christ**.
- Please pray for **wisdom** for us as directors and staff at SportsReach as we traverse these tricky times - that we would still be able to **share Christ** possibly in new and different ways over this time.
- Please pray that **God would be glorified** and many would turn to Him.

