

# SPORTSREACH

AUTUMN PRAYER LETTER 2021



## Bodenseehof Soccer Camp, Germany – 4th – 11th Sept 2021

What a joy it was to return to Bodenseehof to run the soccer camp along with the staff there after over 18 months of not being able to go abroad. And what a great week we had! Wall to wall sunshine after a very wet summer in Germany was just the start!

**35 young people** descended on Bodenseehof on the Sunday afternoon and they threw themselves into all the activities over the week. Football, football and more football along with training sessions, quizzes, competitions, team games ('phobia' being the favourite!) free time, mealtimes etc. The highlights for me were the **morning devotion times** and seeing a real hunger amongst all the young folks to learn more from the **Word of God**. We looked at the same theme we had used at our soccer and netball schools here in the UK, **'In the beginning'**, and they were keen to read the verses and to contribute in the meetings as we worked through the opening chapters of Genesis together. One young lad decided to carry on reading through Genesis after the first day and was on chapter 38 by the last day! Not bad for a week packed with so many activities! It was so good to open up or reinforce great Biblical truths with those already walking with God as well as sharing new truths with those who had come along with no, or very limited, Biblical knowledge. Two young boys indicated that they wanted to begin their walk with Jesus at the end of the week during the reflection time and we are looking forward to seeing them in future years as they grow and develop into men of God.

Two of this year's helpers at the camp were 18-year-old lads who have attended previous camps; in fact, one of them made a commitment there two years ago. It was brilliant to see him being discipled and growing in his faith and now sharing Jesus with the next generation of soccer camp kids. **Thanks to all at Bodenseehof** for inviting us over and for all their hard work too, making it such a great week.

**We are thankful to God for so many things:** great truths to share; travel going so well; tests etc all coming back negative; great team to work with; receptive kids - eager to learn and engage; seeing kids responding to the gospel; kids keen to learn the memory verses; a good number of girls at the camp; great food; kids settling well at night (mostly!); the facilities; great weather.

**Roll on Soccer Camp 2022!! Will**

**This year's 'Big Memory Verse Challenge' at soccer and netball schools –** *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.'* John 1:1-5

### PRAYER POINTS

- ◆ For wisdom and guidance as we plan our **2022 programme**, especially as things begin to open up overseas.
- ◆ For **more sponsors for children in Kenya** – for more information please contact Sue@sportsreach.org.uk

### PRAYER POINTS

- ◆ **CLASSICS FOOTBALL**  
Training Tuesdays,  
matches some Saturdays
- ◆ **WOMEN'S FOOTBALL**
- ◆ **KENYA MISSION**

### PRAYER POINTS

- ◆ **FOOTBALL LEAGUES**  
5 aside – Wed evenings  
11 aside – Saturdays
- ◆ **NETBALL LEAGUE**  
Wed evenings

### DIARY DATES

- ◆ **Sponsored snooker and coffee morning**  
15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 8am – midnight @ Will & Sue's
- ◆ **Weekend Away @ Knock**  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 (tbc)

# SUMMER SOCCER AND NETBALL SCHOOLS



**WRAY** - What a fantastic week we had at Wray – great weather, a great group of children, and a great gospel to share! We had some wonderful, sunny, summer evenings, perfect for playing football and netball. Each night we gathered the children together and shared with them from God’s word. We had a great day on Saturday as all the parents joined us for the world cup matches and for pizza from Big Bears! Everyone listened intently as the gospel was shared. Praise God for all who heard His Word and for the lives saved by His grace!



**CLAPHAM** - Another great week, praise God! Not bad weather either for Yorkshire, apart from the huge downpour as Will shared the Gospel with the parents on the Saturday afternoon – but they still listened! And it came out fine for the BBQ and coaches v parents match, so all was well! Highpoint of the week had to be the **huge response to the gospel** – 11 young people went into Group 1, wanting to know more about becoming a follower of Jesus!

*“It’s unique, I have never known anything like it!”*

**SANDHURST – from the Pastor** - We have just had the 18<sup>th</sup> visit from the team and despite the rigours and restrictions of Covid-19, it has been a **blessed time!** The daily schedule involved setting up each morning on the sports field and a time of devotion for the team before the children started to appear at 9.45am. A morning assembly started the day off for the children and then it was time for drills and skills to be practised. Then Bible time, lunch, a joke telling competition and Gospel meeting.

“World Cup” matches on the playing field and the day ended for the children with coaches’ awards being presented and finally prayer.

Coaches’ debriefed on the field, then a big tidy up before dinner was served in the Old Stables. Saturday was to be an exciting day – individual competitions and World Cup Finals, followed by an excellent BBQ held on the playing field. The parents and coaches held the usual final football match after presentation of awards and a short message.

The Sunday morning service took place in the open air on the playing field and a good number attended and heard the gospel. Eventually the time came to say “goodbye,” but many positive comments were made and much encouragement experienced. Please pray for this ongoing work.

*“I knew it would be good, but I didn’t know it would be that good”*

**CARNFORTH** - Another great week, fantastic weather, 80+ kids. **It was so great to be back at Carnforth**, again a highlight was the parents gathering on the Saturday afternoon to support their children, enjoy coffee and cake, and hear a clear message from Will. It was great, too, to have so many young helpers who have grown up through soccer and netball schools and are now assistant coaches! But topping all that was the response from the kids, and especially seeing two sets of siblings giving their lives to Christ – **amazing!**

*“Our son had an absolute blast! Every day he came home raving about the fun he’d had, what he’d learned in Bible time, the skills he’d learned and was so excited to go the next day!”*

**RIPON** - ‘If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again!’ That was the situation with the soccer and netball school at Ripon this year! All was in place and ‘good to go’ - then Monday morning the phone call came! Some of the key people in the organising team at Ripon had contracted Covid or were close contacts and they had to pull the plug. We offered to rearrange for a few weeks later, and the folks at Ripon worked so hard to make this happen, only for that same Monday morning feeling as this time it was our turn to have to pull the plug due to Covid! However, a family fun day was arranged one Saturday in September and we went over to help run it. It was encouraging to see so many children that had been signed up for the soccer and netball school coming along with their parents and to hear parents say how appreciative they were of the hard work of the church in persevering to organise something. **It was a blessing to be able to present the gospel** in word and drama, before sharing a great BBQ and several competitions along with bouncy castles, pillow fighting etc. ‘We look forward to being able to see you for the full event next year’ was another comment from many parents and we look forward to that as well. We pray that God will work in the hearts and lives of all who came along that day, **for His honour and His glory.**

## \*\*\*KENYA NOVEMBER 2021!!\*\*\*

We are in the process of getting a small team together for 10 days outreach in Lumakanda, Kenya! As things are opening it, it was very much on our hearts to return to continue the work with Pastor Omido – school assemblies and sport, Bible teaching seminars, outreach matches, church services, and child sponsorship programme.

PLEASE PRAY for the right team, the right programme, finance, safety and health in travel, and for a great response to the Gospel wherever we go. Pray too for the new Christian school we are supporting, ‘Midanne International Vision Academy’, and for more sponsors for children and teachers. If you are interested, please contact [sue@sportsreach.org](mailto:sue@sportsreach.org)

