

CENTRE SPOT

AMBASSADORS IN SPORT
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Ambassadors in Sport 20th Anniversary

This summer marked the 20th anniversary since the beginning of the AIS journey! From 1987 to 1990 John Squires, Garrick Pang and Jon Ortlip, based in Los Angeles, prayed, planned and recruited a team of missionaries to move to Europe.

Believing that God was leading them to England they wrote to Christians in Sport (CIS), based in Oxford, a letter outlining the purpose and vision for coming to the UK. Thankfully CIS responded with a clear invitation to come to England and the opportunity to base somewhere in the North. God opened doors of opportunity for the team when friends in Bolton

invited them to be based there. He then miraculously provided housing in a local parish which was needed in order to secure a place in the school for the Ortlip's 5 year old daughter, Heidi.

John Squires put an advertisement in the Bolton Evening News looking for players to join the new team and the first Ambassadors football team was formed. Initially the team was known in the league for fair play and conceding many goals. Over time however it became known for winning and sharing the Gospel message, both by word of mouth and in the local paper.

New staff continued to arrive from the USA in the early 90's and the numbers increased with the addition of British staff members including Graham Dancy, now in Spain, Dave Oakley, who later moved to the Czech Republic and Ray Tucker. In 1996 a number of US staff, including Jon Ortlip moved back to the USA to open the AIS office in Cleveland. Ray Tucker took over as UK Director. In

1996 AIS officially became a charity within the UK with Mark Thomas serving as chairman of the trustees.

In 1999 Jon Ortlip registered AIS in the USA with the vision of developing AIS globally. Within just a few years, using many different strategies and circumstances, God expanded the work to Spain, South Africa and the Czech Republic. More people caught the vision and by 2007 AIS had staff developing work on every continent. Now 20 years after the first team moved to England, staff are committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through football in 20 nations.

The leadership of the mission believes that God's blessings will allow AIS to make a unique contribution to the task of global evangelization now and in the coming decades. Pray for AIS leadership as we embark on the next ten years working together on a vision to see AIS workers communicating the Good News of Jesus in 100 countries by 2020.





USA Summer Camps

In the small town of Clatskanie, Oregon, life runs a bit slower, especially in the heat of summertime. Teenagers wander the streets, free from the tedious obligations of school, and local police officers take turns standing watch over beehives that threaten the safety of the city park.

Nestled amidst dozens of logging factories in the tall pines of Western Oregon, Clatskanie doesn't have too many opportunities to entertain visitors. So when the Ambassadors Soccer Camp rolls into town every July, everyone gets involved.

Local businesses donate food and supplies, volunteers contribute their time and effort, and church members graciously open their homes to the visiting coaches.

Despite having only a few small soccer programs in the surrounding area, the week-long AIS soccer camp routinely draws 75-100 kids ages 6-16. Some of these children look forward to the small-sided "World Cup" games played every afternoon, while others enjoy lunch time spent with their new friends and coaches. However for one young boy

named Matt, the best part of the day is always Bible Time.

Matt is an average-sized American boy with a shock of red hair and thick square glasses. Although he certainly is not the most athletic boy on the field, he looks forward to soccer camp every year, and as a veteran camper, Matt is quick to tell anyone the names and countries of his coaches from years past.

Even though the 30 minute-long Bible Time always stands out for Matt, this past summer's AIS camp brought along a different perspective on what it actually means to have a personal relationship with Christ.

A few years prior to the 2010 camp, Matt had committed himself to Christ and since then he had been living what would be considered to be a good Christian life. He treated people with care, put others before himself and even obeyed his parents, at least most of the time.



Yet despite all of these well-intended actions, Matt still had a nagging doubt in the back of his mind: his mother was not a Christian and he didn't have many chances to attend church.

Matt wondered if his mother's lack of faith could prevent him from having an ongoing relationship with God. If she didn't believe, did that mean he couldn't believe as well?

However, through the story of Jonah that was shared during Bible Time, Matt was able to see that faith in God and salvation from the punishment of sin doesn't come through any action of our own or anyone else. In fact, those actions oftentimes can lead us farther from God.

In the same way that Jonah and the sailors tried and failed to handle things on their own, Matt saw that no one, including himself, could do enough bad or good to affect his standing before God.

For Matt and many other children at AIS soccer camps across the country, the realization that God had pursued their life and won them over from the clutches of sin was just about the best news that anyone could have shared, and many children are eagerly

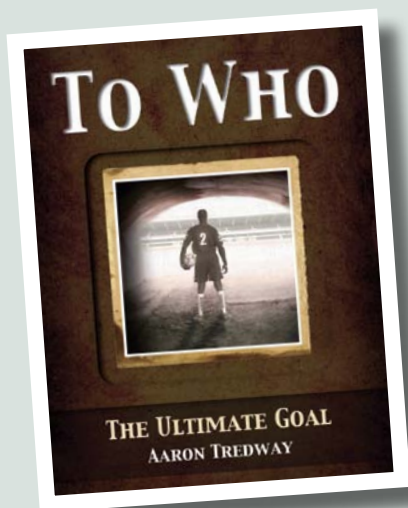
Zach Bauguess
Ambassadors Soccer Camps

To Who

June 11th, 6 AM, opening day of World Cup 2010. A vuvuzela blares outside my bedroom window. The sound can be heard everywhere throughout the day; in the house, outside the house, everywhere I go.

By now you know that a vuvuzela is the horn blown at all World Cup matches in South Africa. While many have found that sound to be offensive, for me it is the sound of a nation filled with hope and expectation, a symbol of the change occurring in South Africa.

In late April a small group of people, five to be exact, arrived in South Africa to participate in bringing hope to the nation through a project called the "To Who Campaign." What began as a manuscript a couple of years prior, written by Dr. Aaron Tredway, AIS Director of Global Advancement, asserts that we are all involved in a daily competition - for glory, our glory versus God's glory. We each have a choice of how our life is to be lived, but the question we all must answer is, "To whom will the glory go?" In January 2010 it became apparent that it was written for such a time as this, to be used as a unifying theme for much of the ministry that would happen at the World Cup. The "To Who" team had the opportunity to minister not only to the most influential churches and ministry leaders of South Africa but also to the poorest.



As the speaker for "To Who," Tredway gave a challenge to thousands of people to reach three people for Jesus Christ within the 30 days of the World Cup. Pastors repeatedly shared that they had never seen a corporate response to a challenge as they experienced with "To Who". One church needed 1000 additional books in light of the response to the message. Another pastor saw the message of "To Who" as being so vital that he arranged for Tredway to speak in five different services in Cape Town – all on one Sunday. That pastor had great vision as many people came to Christ that day as well as many more committing to impacting three people in 30 days.

As the keynote speaker at a breakfast for businessmen in Johannesburg, Tredway shared the Gospel and invited those in attendance to make a change in their lives, choosing Christ as Savior. The first man to stand to his feet was allegedly a notorious, and somewhat corrupt government official.

While in Cape Town, Tredway visited Drakenstein prison, home of the AIS Hope Academy. After speaking to the prison guards over 70 responded to the message that day.

On June 16th Tredway was invited by the largest church in South Africa to speak with over 5,000 people from a nearby squatter camp occupied by displaced refugees from surrounding countries. Prior to the match he shared with this large crowd who had very little, that they can have hope in Christ. Following his message "To Who" books distributed. A month later the leader of the hosting ministry contacted us. Here is an excerpt from his email: "I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Aaron and the team. You really did make a welcome difference in showing true servanthood to the homeless people. Not only did Aaron's message speak to the people, but I believe his ability to connect across cultural, racial and economic boundaries was truly



Erin Treadway

applaudible. The book was highly appreciated by all. At first I was worried that Dr. Aaron's book, "To Who" would end up somewhere in the field – or even worse – being used to make a fire, but to my surprise, quite a number of the homeless reported back that they read the book – and found it easy to read and understand. They appreciated the message – and liked the prospect of living for Jesus and to make a difference in the world."

There is no doubt that God is at work in South Africa.

The impact of the ministry of "To Who" was very effective but does not stop with the World Cup. Tredway will return to South Africa to continue to speak into lives about the glory of God. "To Who" has now been invited to meet with committees of other major events to see if there is synergy in utilizing the resource for their efforts.

A few years ago God worked in the heart of a man to write a book that speaks of the glory of God. He didn't know how God would use it or the massive impact it would have. I am learning more and more that as I trust God with my life, and obey His calling, He does so much more than I could ever hope or imagine possible.

Soli Deo Gloria

Jan Tarnowski
To Who Project Coordinator

Haiti after the 'quake

Jonathan Ortlip AIS International Director

Few in Haiti will ever forget January 12, 2010 at 4:53 p.m. Rich Mears, AIS Haiti Director, will not forget. Nor will he forget June 17th, 2010. He knows better than most that our lives hang in the balance and every day is a gift from God. The story begins with a report from AIS International Director, Jon Ortlip, who returned last spring to find the country where he grew up devastated and demolished. Ortlip spent four days with AIS missionary to Haiti, Rich Mears. His first-hand report follows:

The earthquake in Haiti left hundreds of thousands homeless and destroyed the homes of rich and poor alike; many finding themselves in the same refugee camps together, sleeping in tents. In Port-au-Prince not far from Rich's home we visited Refugee Camp 48 (approximately 50,000 people living in tents) where AIS staff are ministering. The AIS team has trained 14 young men and women in the camp to work with the children. These young coaches are being disciplined by AIS staff and volunteers. As a result of hearing the Gospel message some refugees have made commitments to Christ and are also being trained. As a result of the earthquake and aftermath, the Haitian people have become very open to the Gospel, at least for a time.

I was amazed at the level of communication and coordination taking place in Haiti despite the difficulties of daily life. Working cell phones and the ability to transfer funds help Rich and Ronald (AIS board member who also attended the first Haiti TREC) support the seven AIS regional works located throughout Haiti. Each region has



a committee of 6-9 people, formed in key cities or towns. Committees include but are not limited to a TREC trained coach, a trained spiritual leader and an administrator. Each region aims to have one team of 13-15 year old boys from eight church-based schools (Haitian schools typically have no sports program, let alone interscholastic competition). The purpose is to evangelize and disciple the boys on the teams and ultimately the local church. At present AIS Haiti has about 260 volunteer staff on these committees and approximately 1000 young boys on 56 school teams. With God's help they will grow to 10 regions in the coming years and minister in every community in Haiti.

Rich and I met with the Vice President of the Haitian Football Federation (FHF) and the Technical Director, sharing our evangelistic vision in a straightforward way. Neither indicated that they personally were believers, but both men were receptive to the fact that our mission is to make Jesus known. They will include what we are doing with youth in football in their reports to FIFA, thus adding to their own credibility. We also met with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and they too were

very interested in what AIS is doing across the country.

Within months of Ortlip's visit, a shocking event took place which would shake AIS to the core...

Shot and robbed at a bus station in Haiti

Rich Mears AIS Haiti Director
On June 17th, 2010 I took one of our Haitian leaders, Debreus with me to the bus station. He is the president of AIS Haiti's regional committee in Jean Rabel in northwest Haiti. He had come down to Port-au-Prince to help transport the video projector, DVD player, VCR, new cleats, and evangelistic booklets to Jean Rabel for our World Cup outreach. As we began to unload I left the pickup doors unlocked. The next thing I knew someone was opening the front door and grabbing the bag that had the video projector in it. I said "No, that bag doesn't go now". He lifted up his shirt and showed me his gun, grabbing my briefcase with my cell



Rich Mears

phone, camera and flash drives. I simply said “No”, and then heard a loud “Bang!” Suddenly my thigh felt like it had a bad cramp. Immediately the shooter and his buddy ran off with my briefcase and I shouted for help.

Within moments a man in his thirties got in my truck and offered to drive me to the hospital, explaining he had seen the whole thing happen. As I painfully lurched out of the front seat to get in the back, I saw the severity of my injury for the first time. My pants were soaked with blood. I had been shot! I applied pressure to the hole where the bullet entered, and stopped the bleeding, but I did not see that the bullet had exited my thigh and most of the bleeding came from the exit wound.

Fighting not to lose consciousness I talked with my driver all the way to the hospital. Joseph had been raised in Jean Rabel, and had attended a Christian school where we have established a soccer team. I asked him if he was a Christian and he said he had trusted Christ but had not been attending church lately. Then he told me something I will never forget. He wanted to help me because he felt like he could have been the one to be shot. He had seen the two gangsters looking for a target. He got out of his car, locked the door, and walked away. A few minutes later he heard the gunshot and ran over and saw that they had shot me. He felt God was using this tragedy to get his attention and bring him back into a relationship with Him. I told him I was ready to die and meet my Maker and asked him if he was ready.

He said he would think about that question.

We arrived at the “Doctors Without Borders” hospital across town about 45 minutes after the shooting. The “hospital” was a tent with flies and mosquitoes buzzing around. When it was time for Joseph to go, I offered him some money but he refused it saying he was content with whatever reward he would get in heaven! I will follow up with him as I know God is working in his life.

The doctor told me that things did not look life-threatening – I had not bled to death because the bullet had not hit an artery or major vein. My Crossworld co-workers David and Bruce came and after my initial care, took me to Dr. Jeudy for further treatment which included a small operation to “excise” where the bullet had entered and exited. After treating the wounds, I was to spend the night in the clinic. Dr. Jeudy put me in a private room with a fan where I rested comfortably until we lost power and the fan stopped. The room got very hot and mosquitoes were buzzing around my head. Knowing I would not get any rest, Dr. Jeudy agreed to let me go to the Bolosse campus with my fellow missionaries. Meanwhile, my wife, Carol was contacted (she was in the US with our children). It was decided it would be best for me to go to the US the next day.

In the morning, following the night at Bolosse, God gave me Psalm 41: “Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him

and preserve his life; he will bless him in the Land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.” On the way to the airport we stopped by Dr. Jeudy’s clinic to change the dressing on my wounds and give me a pain shot. This shot burned like fire in my veins, but I felt no pain on the plane ride! I was put in First Class and I was never happier to have a big comfortable seat. When I arrived in JFK, the whole family was there to greet me. I was home at last!

As I reflect on this incident, I realized all of us who are engaged in the Lord’s work and building His Kingdom on earth are in a battle. Some of us get hit by Satan’s bullets and fiery darts and are wounded. Some of these wounds are obvious, like the hole in my thigh. Others are the spiritual and psychological wounds of going through a church split, or dealing with an addiction problem. Sometimes God’s soldiers die in battle. There were more heroes of faith - martyrs - in the 20th century than at any time in history. I am grateful that I did not die, and that God has given me more time to serve Him here on this earth and to be with my beloved family.

[Following a time of recovery and personal evaluation, Rich Mears returned to Haiti stronger than ever and with renewed purpose and determination. Among other soccer projects for AIS, Mears began working with the Haitian Association of Amputee Soccer...]



Raising funds for the amputee soccer team

Who says we can't raise funds in Haiti - read on! God starts providing for the Amputee Soccer Team!

On Thursday, Sept 8th I took the leaders of the Haitian Association of Amputee Soccer to a large campus outside Port-au-Prince where Mission of Hope offered to house and feed the team during 5 days of intensive training from Sept 13th to 17th. We were to see the campus for the first time and make final arrangements. Mission of Hope received us graciously, giving us free food and lodging for the camp, and agreeing to transport the team to a nice soccer field twice a day for training!

Friday, Sept. 10, was a big day for the Amputee Soccer Team - the first day of fundraising in Haiti for the team. We were anxious to see what God would do.

I took Cesar, one of the goalies to visit several businesses. At the first business, a small store where I sometimes buy water, we explained the team's needs and asked the owner for a donation of two jugs of water (worth about \$3 US). She gladly gave them, thus marking the first donation by a Haitian!

Next we went to a hardware store to buy the soccer goal posts. The manager got so excited he gave us a 25% discount (worth about \$20 US). Then a customer in the store opened up his wallet and donated about \$6 US. We visited eight businesses that day and were well-received by most. Please pray as we follow up soon.

That afternoon the Amputee Soccer Team, dressed in Adidas uniforms donated by my high school alma mater, played an exhibition match at Quisqueya Christian School (QCS). The students listened intently to Pierre Richard Bruny, captain of the



Haitian National Soccer Team, who also serves as president of the Haitian Association of Amputee Soccer. Then they watched the game and were inspired by the effort both teams made. They cheered like mad when the red team scored.

After the game I handed out brochures about the team and later I got a phone call from someone who wanted to know how to contribute to the team. The QCS student council decided to raise funds for the team selling hot dogs and soda. They raised \$355! So during the first day of fund-raising in Haiti, the team received about \$385 US in cash and discounts!

On Saturday, September 11, 2010 I received a phone call at 7 AM from a friend of mine who has a radio show. He asked me to call him back so he could interview me about the amputee soccer team and my robbery and shooting at the bus station. Though I was still sleepy, Carol said I did a good job communicating in Creole. In my closing words, I publicly forgave the gangsters who shot me, and said that if they asked forgiveness of Christ, they would be forgiven by God as well and find

power to change their lives.

Later that day there was a picnic at QCS, and my wife, Carol and I went over early to see if we could help. I noticed that one of the English-speaking churches in Port-au-Prince was having a men's seminar at QCS as well. Since I knew the leaders of the conference, I asked them if I could make an announcement about the Amputee Soccer Team! Not only did they say yes, but the pastor of the church wrote a personal check for \$200 US, and made a pledge of \$500 from his ministry!

After such an exciting morning, I enjoyed the picnic with my family. My son, Ricky pulled together a boy's soccer team to challenge the parents and teachers in a game. Unfortunately a player fell on my ankle and sprained it while I was playing goalie. It was the same leg that got shot, so right now I am back on crutches! But I can't wait to see what God is going to do next as our quest continues to raise enough funds to send the Amputee Soccer Team to Argentina!

Rich Mears
AIS Haiti Director

Cycle For Hope



We made it! Our epic cycle down through Africa took us six and a half months, through 16 countries and covering 15,000 kms, up mountains, through both deserts and rainforest and over tarmac, dirt and sandy roads/tracks. We cycled in extreme heat and also in very cold conditions. There were accidents, all of us were sick at one point or another and living in tents on thin mattresses the entire time took its toll. There were many painful and difficult times and also some incredibly uplifting experiences. It's impossible to fully describe the adventure but I would like to just highlight three aspects about the trip.

AIS Africa are developing Hope Academies across the continent utilizing a unique curriculum built around the three core pillars of Football, Faith and Future

Football:

We all know the stats: Football is the world's most popular sport. There are more countries registered with FIFA than the UN. It's a global phenomenon. The World Cup was held in Africa for the very first time and the entire continent was excited and ready to welcome the world. It doesn't matter who you are, your skin colour, language, religion or background....football is a universal language that brings people together in a unique way.

Our team, primarily consisting of AIS volunteers from Northern Ireland played many football matches and ran coaching sessions over the six months, using these simple opportunities to share our faith. In each country, our love of football and the friends we made through that, instantly enabled us to share why we were in Africa and a bit about our own personal faith.

Faith:

The cycle was also a real opportunity for us as a team to grow in our own faith. In a unique environment, many of those involved on the cycle were young and at a point where they were keen to explore God's will for their lives. This was a chance to get

away from it all and take time to do that. Far from so many distractions that we have at home, we were able to live the simple life in many ways and yet there were many hardships too. We lived on top of each other for six months. We saw each other's imperfections. When we were tired and grumpy, we couldn't hide. When we were lazy, others all had to live with it. When people were sick, we all had to cover for them. When one lives like that, one really wonders how God could love us, never mind having to actually love each other! Our daily lives together exposed bad attitudes at times and revealed our many weaknesses. It's not fun to have to admit these things! But one thing we came to know more fully was God's amazing grace! Why does God persevere with us? Why does He love us? We learnt many lessons as a team, such as having to rely on God in some dangerous situations, learning to forgive each other and to

trust God in difficult times, stepping out in faith, the importance of God's word. Each day someone shared a verse before we set out and then we would have devotions together in the evenings.

It was also a challenge to our faith to see what God is doing in some of the countries and to see the immense need all around us. We met pastors who live with very little, sacrificing everything to answer God's call on their lives. Most have been through incredible hardships and their families have suffered as a result of their faithfulness and commitment to the gospel. The spiritual battle is real and yet despite the hardships, God is faithful and one can see the reality of their faith so clearly. It was a real challenge to us.

We saw people all around living their lives with little or no knowledge of Jesus. We cycled past towns and villages knowing that there was no Christian presence there. What could we do? How do we respond to such situations? We visited entire villages who have never heard of Jesus and who live in fear of the spirits that rule over them. We live with freedom in Christ and take so much for granted. I wondered how amazing it would be to stay in those villages and just live out our Christian faith before them. How different would the villages be set free in Jesus? Who is ever going to go and show them that in Jesus they can be more than conquerors and that they don't have to live in fear, that there is hope in Jesus.

Future:

A major aim of the cycle was to promote football ministry around Africa. AIS currently work in Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. However, what do we do with what we have seen? How can we help those we met? These are some of the questions we have asked ourselves now that we're back in Northern Ireland.



Senegal: over the past few years AIS Ireland have sent tours to Senegal and built up some good relationships with local churches and missionaries. To follow up on this we decided to run a TREC when we were there. We had 25 attend the course in Dakar including people from 12 different countries. It was a brilliant time and each of the delegates then returned to their country or town with the training to develop sports ministry in their church or community. Since then, we have heard of some of the TREC participants taking what they have learnt and travelling all over Senegal running mini TREC's, passing on what they have learnt to many others. God is using a small thing that we did to impact many different countries. We will never know the full impact of this but we trust God for the harvest. Training Africans to reach their own people is an incredibly effective way of reaching the unreached.

Guinea Bissau: Again we have had many teams travel from Ireland to this tiny country on tour. Each year we have built on the previous tour and this continuity has meant good relationships with churches, football teams, the FA and even the government. Last time we were there, we were invited to meet the President of the country! Doors have just opened up and the next step is to look at how we can develop a long term work in the country. It's still early days but we're in the process of putting together a long term plan for Bissau which would see us partner with various churches to start football ministry right across the country. Having a full-time base in Bissau would also enable us to reach out to other neighbouring countries.



Cameroon: We arrived in Cameroon with few contacts and nothing specifically organised. We left having spent four days in the capital Yaounde working with a local church where we played seven matches, shared at three services in the church, saw 45 young people give their lives to Jesus and left a pastor with the vision and desire to develop football ministry. He had never thought of using football as a means of evangelism but was now determined to build this into the ongoing work of the church and encourage other churches to do the same.

At AIS, we have a heart to partner with churches and support them in reaching into their communities. Pray for us as we seek to follow up with all the contacts made on the cycle.

When we finally made it to Cape Town, we had the opportunity to visit Drakenstein Prison where Nelson Mandela spent many years as prisoner. AIS have developed the Hope Academy model and one of the Academies is based in this prison. Having built up credibility over many years, AIS have been allowed to work in an entire cell block which has become the Hope Academy. Inmates sign up to the Academy with the understanding that there is Bible

teaching as well as football training and life skills. Hearing some of the stories from Mark Slessenger who is the Academy Director, one wonders what one will face. Young men, many of whom grow up orphaned by AIDS turn to a life of crime, drugs and alcohol and whose time in prison only seems to make things worse.

But we met young men whose lives had been turned around. Encouraged to learn new skills, they treated us to a mini concert from those who had learnt musical instruments and started a band and others who performed a special World Cup dance for us. Given encouragement and support, they have focused on life skills to help them look to the future. Many of them have become Christians and have even started their own Bible studies with inmates from other cell blocks. Prison guards have become Christians having witnessed the change in these guys. It was an amazing day. To see these guys whose lives have been transformed because someone bothered to invest in them and not just tell them about Jesus but actually spend their life going in every day and discipling them. It really humbled and challenged us as a group. To date the cycle has been able to raise close to £15,000 but more than money raised, I really hope that the lasting impact of the cycle will be a call to mission. To be willing to give up our own personal agendas and comfortable lifestyles and go where God calls us. To serve him and serve others hoping to see many more lives changed both in our towns and communities and around the world.

www.cycleforhope.org

Rob Cuthbert
AIS Ireland Director



The 2010 FIFA World

It was the World Cup that many believed couldn't happen – an African World Cup that proved to the world what can be achieved by the people of this continent. Overseas visitors were greeted with the warmest of African hospitality. The teams stayed in luxury. The stadiums were state of the art. The infrastructure was in place. And the World Cup was embraced by an entire nation – helping bring healing between cultures that had previously been divided along many lines... including sport.

Six years ago AIS-SA began considering how we should utilize the momentum of the World Cup in order to help fulfill our ongoing mission in South Africa and the continent. We didn't seek to set a vision around the World Cup – but sought God for our long-term vision in South

Africa and how the World Cup could propel us towards that. We also recognized that, as the only ministry in South Africa entirely focused on football, we had a responsibility to provide leadership amongst Christian ministries and churches seeking to mobilize the Christian community to maximize this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Undoubtedly there have been incredible highlights, of which our TREC initiative since 2007 stands out as a major accomplishment. But there have also been challenges as our capacity was stretched as we sought to manage both our direct AIS initiatives, and serve within the broader body of The Ultimate Goal.

The Ultimate Goal (TUG) is a project of The South African Sports Coalition and is the outreach initiative which took place during June and July 2010. TUG is a network of local and international churches, parachurch organisations and ministries all working together on one common goal: to bring hope and change to South Africa.

Within this network Ambassadors in Sport was responsible for the

coordination of the programmes and projects workgroup which delivered an amazing amount of outreach through finding key programmes which could be developed by ministry champions (service providers) and then through the resources developed and training provided the programmes could be replicated by the local church across South Africa.

Sports Programmes included coaching clinics, Futsal, holiday clubs, kids games, sideline ministry, soccer camps, tournaments, Ubabalo.

In addition to the sports specific programmes we also focused on International Touring Teams, Creative Arts, Service Ministry, TUG Viewing sites (often the local church) where people could come together to watch the matches.

My key responsibility was coordinating the International Touring Teams, with many different ministries and churches looking to receive assistance from the International Christian community within their local ministry. Through the TUG network we were blessed to receive 185 touring teams in total between May – July. That's 2061 people who



Cup in South Africa

felt called to come and assist in the outreach initiatives, which meant we could have mission teams in over 70 towns/cities across Africa.

AIS Highlights

Hope Academy

The Hope Academy is an ongoing programme of AIS and has benefitted from the international and local media coverage that hosting a World Cup brings to anything soccer related.

In addition to this many other people were able to visit and see our Hope Academy projects in action and see the difference this programme is having both in the local communities and in our prison academies.

To see the ABC news report on youtube go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfNp11KbfnQ>

Mission Tours

Receiving international mission teams added much to the work of AIS in our existing programme as well as pioneering work in new areas and with developing relationships with potential new ministry partners.

As well as the AIS mission teams made up with volunteers/players from our offices around the World we also benefited from two US Colleges sending their ladies soccer teams across to support us in our ministry. What a great blessing these individuals were to our ministry.

TREC Training, Resourcing, Equipping Coaches/Churches Without a doubt the number one highlight for me is to see how God has used the coaches who've been trained by AIS over the four years to do immeasurably more than we could have hoped or imagined during the World Cup period.

In total we have had 543 coaches come through our TREC programme many of whom are regularly using the training provided within their communities. However in 2010 some of the coaches we have trained came specifically to be mobilised for



outreach during the World Cup event.

Two examples:

Xtreme Academy – The chairman Xander and two of the players attended the Polokwane TREC and have since trained the rest of the academy players in running soccer clinics.

During the five week school holidays the academy players have been running daily soccer clinics for 120 children from the local community "Vaalwater".

Living Hope Community Centre – A number of volunteer staff from the community centre attended the TREC in Cape Town. During the five weeks of the school holiday regular sports were run everyday, primarily soccer

and netball and over 750 children attended the events. The Living Hope Community Centre also benefitted from one of the AIS touring teams "Taylor University" assisting them in their programs.

In 2011 we will again be using TREC to further equip coaches with many coaches also returning to receive the TREC Level 2 and Level 3 training. We also look forward to running a TREC Level 1 Course in Brazil in January with the 2014 FIFA World Cup in mind.

In His Service

Mark Versey

2010 AIS World Cup Project Manager
& TUG Touring Teams Convenor



bringing hope through football

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