



AROUND THE WORLD



*“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors,
as though God were making his appeal through us.
We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”*
2 Corinthians 5:20

After 32 years of ministry this verse still sums up our overall mission. Facing various challenges all around, the good news we carry is as relevant and needed as ever before. In many contexts we see churches struggling to fulfill their role in God’s overall mission. Football as the most popular sport in the world offers amazing opportunities to connect people to Jesus, especially the young generation.

God is at work all around the world. It is a privilege to join Him, and we’d love to share with you on this journey together. We will be sending out stories of God’s transformational work in updates like this on a quarterly basis going forward.

As many of our country teams are small in numbers, we appreciate your coming alongside our workers in the most powerful way...in prayer! Please reach out, where God places a specific region or country on your heart, we’d love to connect you to the workers on the ground.

As God is opening ways for deeper and wider (even nationwide!) football ministry, we appreciate your journeying with us.



Jonathan Ortlip - Founder and President

LIBERIAN PASTORS AND FOOTBALL

We took part in a Pastors Conference in Liberia earlier this year to promote football ministry, and the results exceeded our expectations as only God can do.

One Reverend, the Vice President of a national Church Denomination, confessed that he once stopped his son from playing soccer with the kids in the community when he was supposed to focus on his education. After the conference he went home and called his son to apologize for discouraging him from organizing the children in the community to play soccer. He told him: *“I am going to buy a soccer ball this week and please go back and gather the children so that we start practice this week. I will be there with you on the field from now on.”*

Another pastor took home a soccer ball from the conference and this is what happened. *“As I walked through the community with the ball placed on my shoulders, a group of children in the community followed me asking if the ball was for them to play. Many followed me all the way to my house and promised to attend Church with me that Sunday. On that Sunday, seven boys showed up at my church.”*

Today, this pastor’s use of one soccer ball has resulted in an ongoing ministry with over 30 kids in the program to the glory of God.



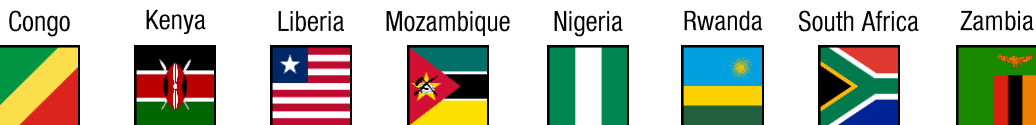
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Churches to overcome a negative or limited view of football used as ministry.
- More personnel, resources, and equipment for each countries’ team.
- The coaches’ discipleship journey and the impact on their players.

AFRICA - Within Africa we have more and more opportunities to partner with large denominations. Their pastors and volunteers are empowered to use football for discipleship. We see kingdom impact on a greater scale than ever before. With a focus on developing coaches as father figures and disciple makers we make sure that the kind of impact we have is not just wide but deep and holistic. Multiplying discipleship through football ministry is reaching and developing a predominant fatherless generation as Christ followers.



Did you know?
 Around 40% of the African population is aged 15 years and younger, compared to a global average of 26%. Football ministry provides an amazing opportunity to invest in them all.



ANDRÉS - A COACH IN COLOMBIA

Andrés lost his father when he was still very young. Before knowing Jesus, his purpose in life was to grow up to avenge his father. However, through soccer, God came to transform not only his life but that of his entire family. Today, he's in college studying to be a P.E. teacher, he's a committed member of his church and he also serves with Ambassadors.

Andrés is the coach of our U7 team. He grew up playing in our club, became one of our volunteers and finally became the head coach of this category. He is the type of person you can trust. He is committed to the vision and mission of Ambassadors because he, in one way or another, is a living testimony of our mission.

In soccer ministry it will sometimes take years to see the fruits of your labor. However, Andrés is just one example of all that God can achieve through a ball. Just like him, there are many other stories of boys in Colombia and beyond who found Jesus on the soccer field and today their lives are being transformed by the gospel.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the many young leaders and their commitment to the works.
- Mobilization of more workers to help our leaders in ministry.
- A vision for churches to use football ministry to reach their communities.



THE AMERICAS - We have increasing opportunities in North and South America to mobilize the Church for football ministry. Our teams within the Americas are passionate about envisioning and training churches to reach the next generation through the most popular sport in the world. Football gives them a unique tool to disciple the next generation in a multiplying way. Most of the work in South America is focused on poorer and disadvantaged communities. Our teams run football ministry in prisons, orphanages and with the homeless.



Did you know?

As of 2021 the total population of the Americas was about 1 billion people. 597 million live in North America (includes Central America and the Caribbean) and 434 million in South America.



Bolivia



Brazil



Chile



Colombia



El Salvador



Haiti



Mexico



Peru



USA



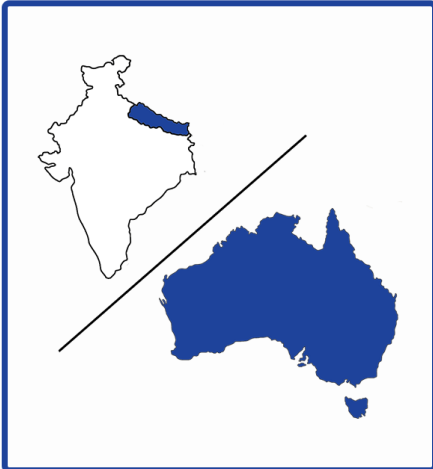
PRANISH – A NEPALI DISCIPLE

Pranish was impacted greatly as a player in the Ambassadors academy. He has become a volunteer coach and plays a vital role in disciple making in other regions.

In June he ran a program called “Promise to Dignity” that addresses issues around gender-violence. He initially trained 15 young boys, who have had a positive impact in the community since.

When Pranish returned to the community for a follow up in September, much to his surprise, 60 young people and children came to attend the coaching clinic. As they were praised by the local community, God provided them with a better training place than the one they had used before, which was swept away by a flood.

In partnership with a local Methodist church the football discipleship program has increased in its lasting impact.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- The leaders and workers across Asia facing various challenges.
- The growth of coaches and players as they follow Jesus and disciple others.
- Provision, protection, and encouragement of the staff and volunteers working in the region.



ASIA - “Making disciples who make disciples.” This vision and aim motivates all our leaders and ministry workers across Asia to invest tremendous amounts of time in football ministry. Academies and coaches training events are run to carry out the great commission in very challenging environments. In simple yet powerful ways coaches and players gather in small groups and discover God from studying scripture together. Our teams work in partnership with other initiatives and where possible, with churches



Did you know?

We work in more countries in Asia than shown. God is using special people in these countries that we cannot talk about. Football discipleship programs open great opportunities that churches would not otherwise have.



Australia



Nepal



GREAT BRITAIN CAMPS IMPACT

"The coaches were amazing! They are zealous for Jesus and love sharing that with the children. They were professional as well as warm and welcoming. What great disciples they are to Christ! Partnering with Ambassadors was the best decision I've made here at St Andrew's".

This is the encouraging feedback our team in England received from a children's ministry leader at a local church after a week of soccer camp.

Across Europe many young people are coaching at camps as well as on an on-going basis. They are sharing Jesus, not only through their words, but through their lives. As staff and coaches grow in their faith and become more Christ-like, their lives impact their players, churches, and the communities they serve in at a deeper level.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for the readiness to collaborate and support each other across the region.
- Further establishment of the new works and teams in Eastern Europe.
- New and deepening partnerships with churches.

EUROPE - In a time of division, conflict and separation between countries, our European Ambassadors set a great contrasting example. Staff and volunteers engage in many collaborative initiatives across the region. They come alongside each other for outreach programs and leverage opportunities to learn and serve together. Some have travelled even beyond the continent to partner with and support football ministry teams in countries such as Egypt and Senegal.



Did you know?
Ambassadors started 32 years ago in Bolton, England? Czech and Spain were some of the first works in other countries. Today Europe is one of our fastest growing regions in the world.





CORE STRATEGIES AROUND THE WORLD



EMPOWERING CHURCHES - Many churches around the world struggle to make disciples and impact those around them. We love it when pastors and even whole denominations grasp how the simple sport of football becomes the key to fulfilling the great commission.

DEVELOPING COACHES - We envision, empower and disciple others to be disciple making coaches in their communities. We do this through our TREC training course for coaches and churches. This training facilitates ongoing development journeys and discipleship networks of likeminded people.



PROVIDING CURRICULUM - Leveraging the global love of football, we share the Gospel through our theologically sound football parables. The Toward the Goal materials include videos and booklets that use the power of storytelling to take children through the entire story of the Bible. While developing a biblical worldview, they are lovingly led to faith in Jesus Christ.

ENGAGING PLAYERS- Whether in academies, clubs, or in community programs, our coaches engage with their players on a weekly basis over long periods of time. Creating a space where players love to be, creates an ideal setting for development and impact beyond the playing of football.



LEVERAGING CAMPS - Our passion for football camps comes from a desire to create short-term experiences for churches and individuals to enjoy football ministry. A week full of football, faith, and fun draws many young people to Christ while also developing ongoing ministries across the world.



Ambassadors Football is a 501c3 non-profit and accredited by ECFA. If you would like to make a donation to the ministry please follow the link below.

Donation checks should be made payable to **Ambassadors Football**. Please be sure to add a note designating who/what the donation is for and mail your donations to:

Ambassadors Football, PO Box 847, Twinsburg, OH 44087-9921



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