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Onside Ministries Newsletter

Chennai Coaching Tour - Review



The team then visited a residential home for children with learning disabilities, where they were able to run a sports session with some of the young people. The team reported that they found this to be a difficult visit emotionally but also very rewarding one, as the children participated in the games and had fun. Tim, one of the team, said "It was tough but it was really amazing to see the impact our visit had and the smiling faces of the kids as they joined in the games. It was just a nice thing to do and it really demonstrated to me that football can be used in all sorts of contexts in a very positive way."

In May a team of coaches from the U.K. visited Chennai to run our now annual sports camp for the local children. Despite normally experiencing blistering heat, the team arrived to torrential rain, which reduced the number of participants for the first few of days of training but did not dampen the spirits of the hardy souls who turned up to play anyway. This year the team were able to expand the camp to include basketball thanks to the presence of Jamie; this was very well received by the young people. The team led five days of training sessions and then finished off with a Fun Day and prize giving ceremony. This year the team also had an opportunity to visit various social action projects in Chennai, beginning with Ahava Children's Home, an orphanage established and overseen by Churchill Joseph, Onside Soccer's representative in Chennai.

The team also visited a church in one of the poorest areas of Chennai, where they were able to see first hand the conditions in which the most financially deprived inhabitants of the city live. Again it was a tough visit but also an inspirational one, seeing people of real faith doing remarkable things with next to no resources. It is now our hope that we will be able to partner with this church and assist them in establishing a sports project as part of their on-going outreach to the local community. For further details of the trip please visit the team blog at www.onsidesoccer.com.

The team are already planning their next trip back to Chennai. If you would like to join them please visit our website for details of next years trip.

Dates for the Diary

13th and 14th
November -
Football
Evangelism
Course

15th November -
Testimony Night
with former
international
Stuart Elliott
(Venue -
Carshalton
Beeches Baptist
Church)

March 2015 -
Ministry
Weekend to
Barcelona

May 2015 -
Coaching tour
to Chennai,
India

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New Partnership in South Africa

In July we set up a new partnership with an up-and-coming South African sports ministry project - Aslan: Hope in Sport. Aslan is headed up by former South African International Hockey player Denzil Dolley and the first project will start in Cape Town in September of this year. The focus will be working with disadvantaged youth in the townships, providing activities and mentorship with the aim of leading young people away from a life of crime. Denzil has been working in the UK for the last six years for Kick London and is a well respected athlete in his home country, having represented South Africa at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Although the Aslan project will be

using a variety of sports, one of the initial focuses will be football. To that end, in partnership with Kits4Causes, Onside Soccer have donated 10 full football kits to get things moving. It is also our hope that we will be able to take a team of coaches to Cape Town in summer 2015 to get involved. If you would like to join us or find out more about this great project please get in touch.



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Operation Nets

Nets obviously play a big role in both football and basketball, but they also play a big role in the prevention of malaria too. It is estimated by the World Health Organisation that malaria causes the death of well over 500,000 people per year - a staggering figure. As an organisation we felt that if we could impact this this problem in even a small way it would be time well spent, which is why we have set up a small project called 'Operation Nets'. The sole purpose of Operation Nets is to supply and distribute mosquito nets to those who need them most.

Mothers Union within Abilonino Parish, near Lira (pictured top left), plus another 5 for needy families in the same parish. The remaining 10 nets were distributed between the Keframa College in Barr, near Lira, and the Prime Nursery and Primary School in Dokolo, about 40 minutes from Lira.

Although we are aware that this is only a drop in the ocean in the fight against malaria, we hope to be able to continue sending nets across to Uganda as an on-going project. Working alongside Ian and Shelagh means that we are 100% sure that nets are being given to those who need them most. A net bought locally costs in the region of £2.50 - £3.00 each - a small price to pay for potentially saving someone's life! If you would like to donate specifically to buy some more nets and help with this project, please get in touch. We guarantee that any funds raised for nets will go in their entirety to this life saving work.



In March 2014 we distributed our first batch of nets to a number of locations in Lira, Uganda through our good friends Ian and Shelagh Baird-Smith. Ian and Shelagh have a huge heart for Uganda and took a small batch of 20 nets with them on their latest visit. They gave 5 nets to the senior ladies of the

Prayer Requests

- For wisdom for the Onside team, that they remain focused and that they continue to seek God's will in their work.
- For financial support to allow Onside Soccer and Cross Over Basketball to function and for projects to grow and develop.
- For discernment for new opportunities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Qatar and South Africa, and that the correct people come along at the right time to make these opportunities a reality.
- For our tour calendar for the coming year, that people sign up for trips and come to see our work for themselves.

Meet the Team – Dan

Over the next few issues we will be introducing you to some of our team. In this issue we will be hearing a bit more about Dan.



One of our first ever Onside volunteers was Warrington lad Dan Bate. Dan graduated from John Moores University with a degree in Interactive Media and currently works as a Teaching Assistant in Liverpool. He is an FA qualified coach and volunteers his time with different teams around Merseyside. During his gap year Dan worked as a Student Support Worker for the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, being part of a team which brought the Gospel to thousands of students across the UK. Dan has also been involved in a

number of football evangelism projects including summer camps and community coaching. Dan has been on two Onside trips to Chennai in India, where has was a huge asset to the Onside team. He is an excellent communicator and has become very well respected amongst the young people who come along to the camps. He specialises in working with the younger players and his easy going manner and good sense of humour have made him a very popular figure. In his spare time, apart from football, Dan enjoys playing and watching tennis and is a regular visitor to Wimbledon each summer. He is also a keen supporter of Manchester United, which must make him very popular in Liverpool!

Final Whistle...

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and also for your on-going support and prayers—we really appreciate it!

The Onside Team

