



May 2013
Volume 2 Issue 1

Onside Soccer Newsletter

Coaching in India

Dates for the Diary

August 2013 -
Football
coaching at
Camp XL in
Devon

Praise Points

Praise God for
the young
person who
accepted Christ
during our
February
football event
in Kampala



In May 2013 Onside took a small team of football coaches back to Chennai in India to run a football camp in partnership with the YMCA and the Dr John Joseph Foundation. Although all of the trips we have organised in the past have been fantastic this one was truly inspirational and all of the guys involved could clearly see God's hand at work as the 10 days unfolded. The kids who attended the camp came from a variety of backgrounds but the majority had no contact whatsoever with Christianity, coming from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist homes. Under normal circumstances there is no way that any of these guys would ever enter a church building but for 10 days the church was brought to them on the football pitch. The coaching went well, with Dan coaching the junior

group and Paul and Rob looking after the senior group, and the camp ended with a competition day and prize giving ceremony. Attendance varied each day between 30-80 boys coming along, which made planning a challenge, but overall everything ran very well (despite the 40 degree heat!). Rob looked after all of the talks at the end of each training session, which were very well received.

During our time in Chennai we looked at building our project at Christ Church and we have now appointed two professional football coaches to work with the kids every Friday evening. We are also looking at strengthening our partnership with the YMCA and building a futsal/basketball court at one of their campuses, which would be the first facility of this kind in the entire state of Tamil Nadu. This particular campus houses over 60 children orphaned during the 2004 tsunami and the court would be for their use, as well as for the wider community. The whole project will cost in the region of £10,000 and the YMCA have agreed to pay half of the costs for the project if we can raise the other half. If this is something you would be interested in getting involved in or contributing towards please get in touch with Paul for further details. We are also already planning our next trip to Chennai, God willing, for next May and if you would like to come along please drop us an email or give us a call. We would love to have you join us!

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Dodgeball

In April 2013 we had our first ever dodgeball competition in Worthing, with 6 teams competing for the prestigious Onside Trophy. For those unfamiliar with dodgeball, it is a fast-moving team sport involving throwing balls whilst trying to avoid getting hit yourself! The competition went very well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all of those taking part. It is our hope to have a few more competitions during the course of the year to raise awareness of our work and also to raise some much needed funds for our overseas projects. If you would like to get involved or find out more details about upcoming competitions please contact paul@onsidesoccer.com



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Onside Soccer



Onside in Uganda

After visiting Uganda in September last year we felt that it was important to put a long term project in place to carry on working with the kids we met in Kampala. Early in 2013 we appointed a part-time coach, Moses Kalanzi (*pictured left*), to head up Onside Uganda and to build on the foundations we had laid. So far Moses has organised two football camps which have proven to be very successful and well attended. Moses has also been building links with other organisations in Uganda and we are now looking to expand our work into different areas. It is our hope to be able to start working in northern Uganda in the very near future. Watch this space for further details!

Onside in Barcelona

In March 2013 we took a small group to the Nou Camp in Barcelona for a ministry weekend, combining watching Barca play Deportivo la Coruna with a time of fellowship. We were joined by some friends from Ambassadors in Sport's Spanish office, hearing about the work they have been carrying out in southern Spain and in Morocco. This was our first ministry weekend and it proved to be a great success and we are now pencilling in a few more dates for groups to visit European cities, watch great football at some of the best stadiums in the world and meet and support local Christian communities. We will be posting a fixture list for next season on the website during the summer so please visit www.onsidesoccer.com for full details.

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 the on-going work in developing the Onside Coaching manual.
- That the re-launch of our project in India will run smoothly and that the kids who attended the camp in May will come to the event at Christ Church.

Meet the Team—Churchill

Over the next few issues we will be introducing you to some of the team. In this issue we are starting off with our man in Chennai, Churchill Joseph.



Churchill was born and raised in Chennai on the south east coast of India. He got off to a hard start in life when his father abandoned him and his mother and left them penniless on the streets. They were taken in by a Christian pastor called Dr John Joseph, who found Churchill's mother employment and raised Churchill as he would have his own son. This act of kindness changed their lives forever. Churchill and his mother had been Hindu but seeing this act of generosity made them curious about Christianity – why would this

man take them into his home, give them so much and help them in this way? It made no sense! But as they came to hear more about Jesus they realised that God had his hand on them from the very beginning. Churchill and his mother both made the decision to follow Jesus. When Churchill left school he got a job, got married and started a family of his own. He never forgot, however, his humble beginnings in life and in 2009 he opened the Ahava Children's Home, giving other children the same start in life that he was given.

Churchill became involved with Onside Soccer in 2010, helping establish the project in Chennai in 2011 and also joined the coaching team in Uganda in 2012. He plays both football and cricket, supports Manchester United, is married to Angelin and has a son and a daughter, Benny and Adiola.

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