



BY PRAYER

# SPORTS FRIENDS



2010 YEAR END REVIEW



## IMAGINE...

... your local football stadium filled to capacity with over 65,000 youth from Africa and Asia. Each youth has his (or her) own story, unique struggles, and deeply held hopes and dreams. Imagine another 3,000 seats filled with dedicated sports ministry leaders serving as “life coaches” – loving, guiding and mentoring these youth through life’s challenges and leading them into a closer relationship with God. This simple

image reflects the number of young people in Africa and Asia whose lives have been touched through the Sports Friends ministry in 2010.

Thank you for your partnership with us this year. Without your prayers, encouragement and financial support, this ministry would not be possible. We hope you are inspired by the enclosed images and stories of God’s work.

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

Each leader and participant in the various sports ministry programs has a story to tell. These are stories of deep friendships formed, fun times had playing sports, lives transformed by God’s grace, challenges met and overcome, joy and blessings received, Godly character developed, and new churches established. We wish there was a way to share all of these stories with you! We pray you are encouraged by these highlights of just a few stories from 2010:

From Pastor Praise in Nigeria ---

“Every week, I am coaching football (soccer) with over 150 teenage boys. I love these boys and have seen great change in their lives. They are beginning to really trust God with their lives – they are seeing that God answers prayers and can be trusted with their greatest problems and fears.

It is amazing to see the change in their behavior. They have dropped out of gangs and are no longer drinking and doing drugs. They hold each other accountable to not curse when playing football. They are even doing their homework and working hard in school. These are new behaviors for (Continued on Page 2)

### PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for our SF team as we are planning for next year.
- Pray for God to transform the lives of youth participating in sports ministry programs.
- Pray for peace and God’s protection for those ministering in volatile areas.
- Pray for God to provide financial support for those who are joining the ministry as well as current missionaries who are underfunded.
- Pray for ministry requests that are on our website: <http://sports-friends.org/requests.html>.



**UPCOMING EVENTS:** SF will be leading vision trips to Ethiopia in July 2011 and SE Asia and Nigeria in February 2012. If you are interested in more information please email or call SF! It is your turn to GO!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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803-802-4526  
[info@sports-friends.org](mailto:info@sports-friends.org)  
<http://sports-friends.org>

### MAIL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO:

SIM USA  
P.O. Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241

### OR GIVE ONLINE AT:

[www.sim.org/giveusa](http://www.sim.org/giveusa)

Please include Sports Friends project numbers on checks and online giving.

## Transforming Lives (continued from Page 1)

many of them. After our football training sessions, I am also tutoring some of the boys in reading and writing.

Non-Christian parents who were skeptical of me in the beginning are now supporting me. They say, 'Whatever you are doing with my boys, keep doing it! They are different now!' As parents see God at work in their children's lives, the doors in the community are open for me and my church."

**From Anthony in SE Asia ---**

"At our recent sports ministry training conference, I met a woman who works with youth and young adults who are deaf. She thought sports could be a great bridge to reach the deaf. I wasn't so sure, but I agreed to help her try.

A few months later, we hosted a sports and games event for over 95 deaf people. We had to be creative with some of our games. For example, in football, we had 9 referees on the field - a center referee with a whistle and then 8 others who would wave flags around the perimeter of the field when the whistle was blown. It worked out great. Everyone was so excited to be included and be able to play!

As a result of these sports events, we had the chance to build friendships and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all of the deaf participants. Seventeen of them decided to place their faith in Jesus and are now connected to the local church. I was deeply convicted about my own lack of faith to believe that God could use sports to reach the physically handicapped."

**From Kebede in Ethiopia ---**

"Last summer, I brought 5 teenage boys from my non-Christian village to Camp Langan. During the course of the week, 4 of these boys decided to place their faith in Jesus. They had been growing closer to this decision over the many months I had been ministering to them through our football team. During camp, they were overwhelmed by the love they received from the camp staff and the visiting team from the U.K. One boy was not happy about the decisions of his friends and mocked them.

When they went back home to their village, many of the adults were not happy and began to beat the Christian boys. The Christian boys explained that no one had forced them to become Christians, but that they had seen real love and made up their own minds to become Christians. One of the boys' arms was broken by the village leaders who were beating him.

## SUMMER CAMPS

- \* 900+ campers in 2010
- \* Faithful Sports Ministers
- \* Dedicated SF staff
- \* Volunteers from the US & UK
- \* Soccer training
- \* Swimming & crafts
- \* Fun & games
- \* Small group discussions
- \* Challenges & growth
- \* Worship, prayer & fellowship
- \* Showing the love of Jesus
- \* Lives changed! →



When the boy who had gone to camp but had not become a Christian saw all of this, he yelled for the adults to stop the beatings. He said right then and there that he wanted to become a Christian also, for he had seen the difference between the villagers and the people at camp, and he wanted to follow the God of love!"

## HOW CAN I HELP?



- **PARTNER:** Mobilize your church to be involved in a strategic, cross-cultural partnership in support of the Sports Friends ministry.
- **GIVE:** Your financial gifts make our ministry possible.

**RECRUIT:** As Sports Friends continues to grow in Africa and Asia, we have needs for additional missionaries to serve with us - coaches/trainers, ministry development leaders, organizational leaders, etc. In addition to these overseas needs, we also have needs for support personnel in our Charlotte office: recruiting coordinator, communications director, media intern, fund/development coordinator, and overall office leader. Please contact us if you or someone you know might have an interest in serving the Lord with us in one of these capacities.



- **PRAY:** It is the foundation of all that we do. Sign up on our website to receive periodic prayer letters.
- **GO:** Many opportunities exist for short-term ministry trips and long-term service.

## FAQ'S



### Where does SF serve?

Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, India, Thailand, and other restricted countries in SE Asia.

### Do you use sports other than soccer for ministry?

Yes! SF will use any sport of interest to a culture in order to reach people with the Gospel.

Ever heard of Takraw? →



### Is Sports Friends part of SIM?

Yes, Sports Friends is a multi-country ministry of SIM. All of our missionaries are SIM missionaries and raise their own financial support.

### How many people serve with Sports Friends?

We have 16 missionary families serving in 5 countries. In addition, 103 national leaders from our host countries serve on our staff and ministry leadership teams. These teams serve and equip thousands of trained, local volunteers who minister directly to the youth.



## God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply - Hudson Taylor



We are humbled and continually amazed as we see God using sports ministry to impact many people's lives for all eternity. Praise God for how He is using this simple, yet powerful platform to transform lives and strengthen communities. It is our privilege to serve in this ministry.

Again, we want to say "Thank You!" to you - our friends and supporters. Words could never express our gratitude to those who prayed, gave sacrificially, encouraged us, and visited our fields! Thank you for standing in the gap for Sports Friends.

When thinking of our support team we are reminded of 1 Samuel 30:24, "...as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike". For those of you who may not have gone but stayed by the "supplies" your reward is just the same in God's eyes. And remember that nothing you do for the Lord is ever in vain.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

## NUMBERS

Youth involved with Sports Friends Ministry

65,000

Sports Minister Volunteers

3,000

Denominational Partners

25

All Serving the one true God

1

# Brief Highlights from 2010



**Future Sports Minister in Nigeria!**

## NIGERIA

Our SIM-partner denomination (ECWA) has sent hundreds of Nigerian missionaries to reach the unreached. Sports Friends has had an opportunity to train them to use sports as an effective church planting tool.

## ETHIOPIA

The KHC (one of Sports Friends' partner denominations in Ethiopia) reports that over the last 8 years, there have been: 1,300 churches that have started sports ministry, 22,000 youth involved, more than 8,600 new believers, and 71 churches planted.

## GHANA

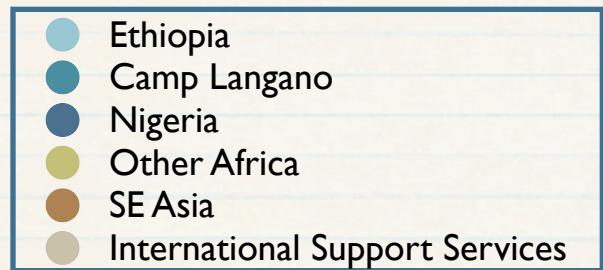
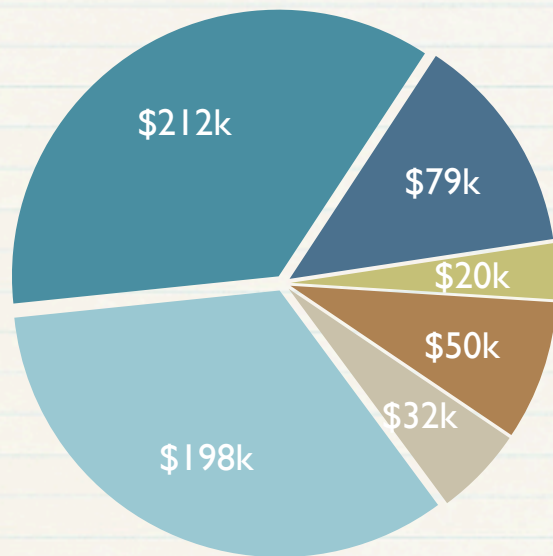
After our initial visit in December 2009, our SF Nigeria staff has since followed up by providing additional training and support to these newly-trained sports ministers. Several of them have begun working with the youth in their communities, particularly in the northern part of the country.

## THAILAND

Our Sports Friends team serving in Asia has grown with the addition of several Thai staff. This is an answer to prayer, as their cultural awareness and language skills are invaluable in this type of grassroots ministry.

1. Leaders identified for our new ministries in Ghana and Kenya
2. Church leaders from SE Asia visited Ethiopia to see the ministry firsthand
3. Surpassed 400 people who have gone on short-term trips to serve with SF in Ethiopia
4. New camper cabins (extra 144 beds), games pavilion and meeting hall completed at Camp Langano
5. Berhanu Kebede, SF leader in Ethiopia, elected VP of Ethiopian Football Federation.
6. New staff members added to SF teams in Thailand, Ethiopia and Nigeria
7. New missionaries recruited to join team in Charlotte and assist with communications and training curriculum development

# Financial Review



Presented here is a summary of our total ministry expenses of \$591,000 for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. Keep in mind that none of the costs of supporting our Sports Friends missionaries are included in the figures above as each missionary is responsible for raising his/her own financial support. We praise God for His provision in 2010. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and giving as God transforms lives and strengthens communities through the Sports Friends ministry around the world! As a reminder, all donations to our Sports Friends projects are tax deductible!