



Carter Family Newsletter

June / July 2010



TWO OCEANS FESTIVAL - 9 JULY 2010

Kevin organised, Dawn assisted, and the boys were very much part of it all. It was the culmination of the sports programme at Living Hope, the Two Oceans Soccer Cup and other Christian-run holiday clubs throughout the World Cup holidays. We enabled around 750 children and teens to attend the event at an amazing school site and be involved in football and netball tournaments across 5 age categories as well as running a parallel programme of activities for the non-sporty.

Approx 150 volunteers turned out, the weather was sunny and there were no injuries or other incidents. A local Christian radio station (www.ccfm.org.za) provided music and PA, local groups (& a Greek magician!) ran dance, drama, crafts, circle games, ultimate frisbee and a bible challenge. All of this was made possible through a donation from Kudos Productions, out in South Africa filming a series for the BBC, and Golden Arrow buses who provided transport at a vastly reduced rate. It was amazing to lead and to see so many children and teens from the township communities come together and participate alongside one another – we understand that this is the first time that this has happened here in the peninsula.

SPORTS WEEK

Kevin finally had the opportunity to deliver sports (football & netball) across all 4 of the Living Hope areas through the World Cup holidays. Only one day of sports was lost to rain in the entire period which is quite something for a Cape Town winter. It was a privilege (and great fun) to go into each of the different areas and oversee the sports programme. This involved training all staff & volunteers, co-ordinating individual and groups of volunteers from many different backgrounds & languages, responsibility for all of the logistics and adapting the programme to the needs and make-up of each of the

different areas and the different challenges that each day brought.



Football Drills in Masi

TWO OCEANS SOCCER CUP

As well as running the sports weeks in the mornings, Kevin was also overseeing the coaching element of the football holiday club run inside and in the car park of King of Kings Church in the afternoons for the first fortnight (www.kingofkings.org.za). Attendance ran at around 100 each day and it was great to lead the coaching which linked directly into a practical life skills programme based on biblical principles: (www.ubabalo2010.com)

SAMARITAN'S FEET

Living Hope is partnering with an organisation called Samaritan's Feet: <http://samaritansfeetsa.com>. 'Almost thirty years ago, a nine-year old boy in Lagos, Nigeria received his first pair of shoes from a visiting missionary. Those shoes were the seeds planted that have bloomed into an international ministry that exists to teach a message of hope, touch people in need, and treat them to a new pair of shoes.'



Foot washing at Shoes of Hope Distribution

A Samaritan's Feet team of 15 from Brazil (www.reobotesoccer.com) helped Kevin with the soccer coaching and Shoes of Hope distributions for the final two weeks of the holidays. They were a very

talented team of Christian players and included current and ex-pros. The team's fitness coach also acted as the translator as Kevin struggles at times with English let alone Portuguese! They arrived in Brazilian colours and the children loved it, albeit a fair proportion believed that they were Kaka et al from the actual national team. They were a huge blessing and it was very sad to wave goodbye to them at the airport on Sunday.



The
Brazilian
Samaritan's
Feet Team

Organising the Shoes of Hope distribution as part of each sports week was a huge privilege for Kevin. These were very special events to be part of. Up to 250 children in each area were ministered to as they had their feet washed and were then given a new pair of shoes.

MOTHER AND BABY GROUP

The Mother and Baby Group continued throughout the holidays. The first week we had good numbers and Dawn had great fun teaching the Mums some of the rhymes that we use at Oasis in Sheffield. Numbers dropped for the remainder of the holidays and Dawn was not able to be fully involved due to sports and Kids clubs. We are hoping to have a fresh start now that the holidays are over.

THE WORLD CUP

Lots has of course been said already about the World Cup but here's our two penny worth! Geographically cut off from Cape Town, the excluded communities that Living Hope works with could easily have chosen to have ignored or rebelled against the World Cup so it was great to try to bring something special to the Living Hope areas through the combination of sports and holiday programmes, the Shoes of Hope distributions and the Two Oceans Festival.

Kevin was fortunate enough to go to the Cape Town Stadium twice, for England v Algeria (0-0) & Germany v Argentina quarter-final (4-0) thanks wholly to very kind gifts from friends at home. Unforgettable! The 'fan walk' between the city centre and the stadium was an amazing celebration with music, colour, stalls,

banter and singing. This continued in the stadium. There was a real feeling of an 'occasion' at both. The sheer volume of English fans was incredible at the Algeria game as was the absence (at both games) of segregation between the fans, which was obviously even more potent given the history of the country. As for the national legacy, we will be happy to debate that with you when we return to the UK!



HOLIDAY CLUB

Dawn and the boys spent the majority of the holiday in Masi. The first week of holiday club had a World Cup theme with the children in different groups rotating around games, story and craft. This was followed by sports week and an American team from Kentucky joined us for week three and led on their own curriculum focussed on space and creation. They were very adaptable and the kids really enjoyed what they did. The local workers acted as translators and joined in with all the team did. Ben particularly enjoyed the week as he realised that everything was being presented in English – he suddenly had his hand up to answer every question! The team invited all the local workers and volunteers to a Braai there before they left which was a nice opportunity to spend some relaxing time with them.



*Holiday
club craft*

FUSION

Fusion is an Australian-based organisation that now works internationally and partners Living Hope. They hold 'open crowd festivals' and each of the areas that Living Hope works in hosted a Fusion festival during the holidays. The aims of the festivals are to bring communities together in an inclusive way and to promote cooperation and fairness.

The format is very simple using a horseshoe shape of activities around the edge with a central games space in the middle. Towards the end of the festival the edge activities are removed and everybody is encouraged to join together in the middle. Local worker and volunteers are trained by the Fusion team in face painting, balloon modelling, circus skills and leading central games. The Fusion festival in Masi was great fun with many of our regular children participating but also others as well.



*Fusion
Festival*

THE BOYS

Ben and Mathew have been on holiday from Pre school for the entire World Cup period so have joined in with all that has been happening. As well as time spent in Masi, they visited Red Hill and Capricorn with Kevin. We have been fortunate to have had short term international volunteers that have been great in looking after the boys whilst we were working. They really became part of the team – Ben even had an idea for a new ministry called Samaritan's Hands. He suggested that we washed all the children's hands and then gave them a pair of gloves!

They have both enjoyed the World Cup, Ben knows all the flags for the 32 participating countries. Matthew has been more interested in playing his own football matches outside the cottage.



Things to give thanks for:

- For safety and peace throughout the World Cup
- For the Two Oceans Festival on 9th July.
- For all that happened at Living Hope throughout the holiday – club, sports, shoe distributions, Fusion festivals.

Prayer needs:

- That the links that Kevin has built up between Living Hope and other organisations can be lasting.
- For the plans for the continuation of the mother and baby group as we prepare to leave.
- For fruitfulness in the rest of our time here.

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