

NOVEMBER 2008

AMBASSADORS IN SPORT

IRELAND



## Ambassadors In Sport Ireland 2008 Review

Well it's getting close to Christmas and the interns will be breaking for their holidays soon! It has been great to see them develop over the past few months and really take on leadership in certain projects, schools work, tours and much more.

As we get to the end of the year we can reflect on God's faithfulness to us over the past year. It has been amazing to see the work develop and grow from me working from home to now sitting in an office surrounded by 6 others! God is good. We have set up as an independant office, taken on new staff and interns for the first time, sent roughly 50 people around the world on various tours, started AIS prayer meetings, and also coached in many churches, BB's, SU's and schools. We also have started our work in prison and ran our first training program (TREC) for Glenabbey Church.

So many new things have happened and sometimes I can get lost in all the projects and programs. But we exist to **bring hope through football**. Hope in Jesus Christ who died for us, saved us and gives our lives purpose and meaning. That's what we share with the people we are in contact with. That's why we do what we do. We have many points of contact with the community and are able to build relationships through which we can share our faith.

Pray for us as we do this and as we encourage others to bring hope through football.



## Ambassadors Football Club..... by Phil Anderson

This is the third season for me at Ambassadors FC and with it brought the new challenge of being in division 3. Going into the season I didn't feel it would be much different but I couldn't have been any further from being right. After playing nearly everybody once we are now aware that any team in the division is capable of beating any one else on their day. Despite this, the new season has seen many of the guys up their game and take up the challenge. To date we are still in two cup competitions and are undefeated in the league. We now know what we are up against going into the business end of the season and so therefore cannot blame ignorance on our performances. We now must all take up the challenge and be prepared to be the one to give 110% in every game between now and the end of the season.

Season highlight so far must be our victory against AFC Craigavon (intermediate team) in the Marshall Cup. Whilst it was only one game it was great to see how far we have come in 3 seasons and to look around the pitch and see every member of the squad on the pitch and on the sidelines 100% focused, both in playing and attitude was immense. Its important though at this stage we don't get caught up in the football but continue to challenge and remind ourselves why we play. Its not about winning matches but showing people through our actions the love of Jesus.

Bring on the second half of the season!



*bringing hope through football.....[1]*

## Interns outlook.....by Matthew Round

Since arriving on Irish soil for the first time, I can honestly say I have had many ups and downs. Working with AIS has been an unreal experience, having the opportunity to combine football and God, my two passions in life. This was an opportunity I couldn't miss.

To be honest I saw this year as a great opportunity to learn more about coaching and improve my skills as a coach. However coaching has very much taken the backseat. I get to spend three mornings a week in the presence of God, reading and discussing his word. These times have to be my most precious moments of the year so far. Don't get me wrong I love coaching and working in the local schools but the devotional times is where I feel I am growing as a person and especially in my faith.

The team of 7 is tightly knit and we all add something to the group. I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of guys. Its crazy to the think that we are already in December and that I have been living here for over 2 months. I guess its true when they say "time flies when your having fun". The remainder of the year I know is going to offer so much more and I just thank God everyday for putting me in this place.



## Another addition to the family.....

Already next year is looking like being even better than this year! Our work will continue as usual but we have a special project that we will be launching in January. This will involve a 6 month cycle down through Africa in 2010 to raise awareness and finances for AIS projects in South Africa and Ireland. We have Annette Williamson starting full-time in January to run this project. Annette has just finished 5 years with Med Air in Sudan and Congo and it's exciting to have her on board. I went to school with Annette in Senegal and our families have always been close with her parents hosting us whenever we take tours to West Africa. So it's an exciting time for us as an office as we see how God will use us to bring the message of hope in Jesus to a community and a world that desperately needs it.

## December events and prayer points

- Thanks for the success of our first ever training event in Northern Ireland
- Thanks for Gods provision and protection as we become an independent office
- The financial transition in January and the change over period
- Planning a preparation for 2009 including the tours, soccer schools and much more
- Our 2nd visit to Maghaberry Prison on the 13th of December
- Our continued schools work and assemblies taking place throughout December

### ***The AIS Christmas quiz***

**12th December**

**Thomas Street Methodist Church**

**7:30 pm - £3**

[www.ambassadorsfc.co.uk](http://www.ambassadorsfc.co.uk)

[www.aisireland.co.uk](http://www.aisireland.co.uk)

[www.youtube.com/user/AISINT](http://www.youtube.com/user/AISINT)

### ***The AIS Ireland monthly prayer meeting***

**21st December**

**170 Bridge Street, Portadown, BT63 5AS**

**4 pm**

# Merry Christmas and thanks for your support