



AMBASSADORS
FOOTBALL

**FOOTBALL
FAITH
FUTURE**



The Cuthbert Family

Serving with
Ambassadors Football in
Senegal, West Africa

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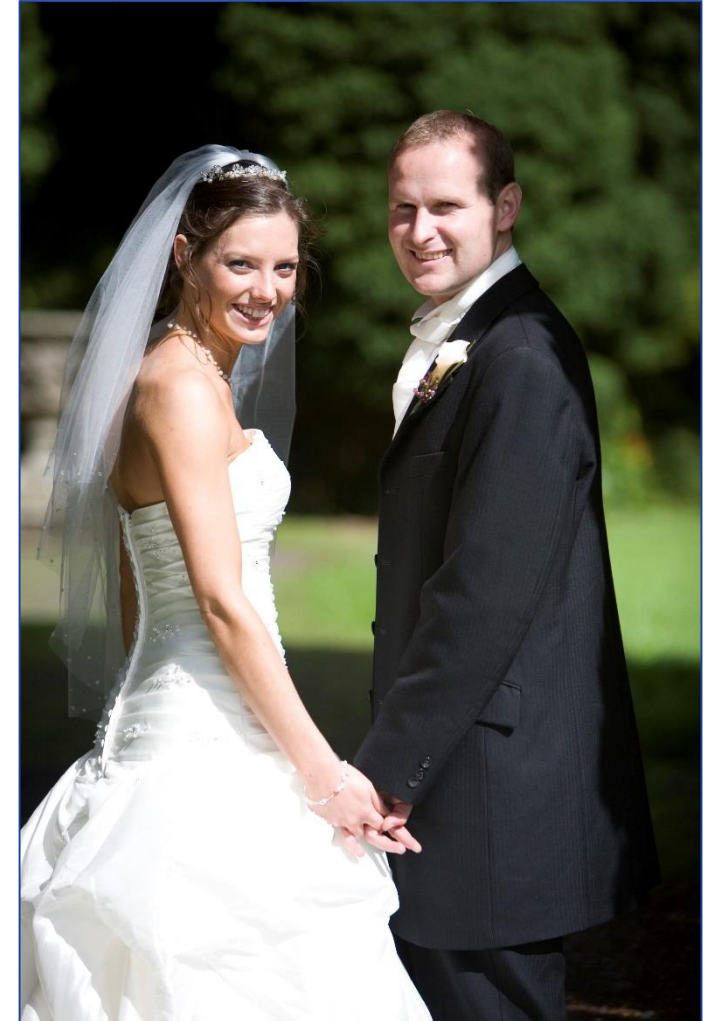
The early years – Northern Ireland

Robert first got involved with Ambassadors in 2003 just after University, when he did an internship in London working primarily with Muslims and then going to Ohio for the Ambassadors Summer Camps. It was there that he met Matt Dobson (also from NI) and God put it on their hearts to start Ambassadors back home. They began by sending football tours to Senegal, West Africa where Robert had spent some time growing up. His parents were missionaries in Guinea Bissau and he had attended boarding school in Senegal for a few years. The ministry in NI soon grew to include schools work, Ambassadors FC, camps in partnership with local churches, an internship and more recently the youth academy.



The team grows!

We got married in 2007 and Kyla was always heavily involved with Ambassadors as well as working as a physiotherapist. She had visited a missionary family in Tanzania after University, loved Africa and so was keen to join one of the Senegal tours as a physio. Later she also went as a player on some of the ladies tours, even playing against the Guinea Bissau national ladies team. God has blessed us with 4 kids and we are very thankful for His call on our lives and for the adventure He has brought us on together.



Cycle for Hope, Africa



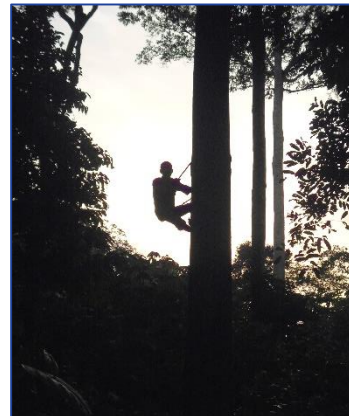
In 2010 we undertook the adventure of a lifetime ... 6 months cycling 15,000kms through 17 countries the whole way down Africa. Our main goal through the cycle was to share the gospel with as many as we could along the way. We played football in many towns and villages, ran coaching clinics in schools, spoke at churches, and were even on radio and TV in a few countries, all of which allowed us to share the love of Jesus and the hope and salvation that we find in Him.

It was an amazing adventure and one which would ultimately change our lives because after our experiences we struggled to settle back into normal life at home and God put on our hearts a desire to go back to Africa. As we prayed about this, God showed us in some very clear ways that we should move to the Republic of Congo. We handed over the work in NI and in 2014 moved to Congo.



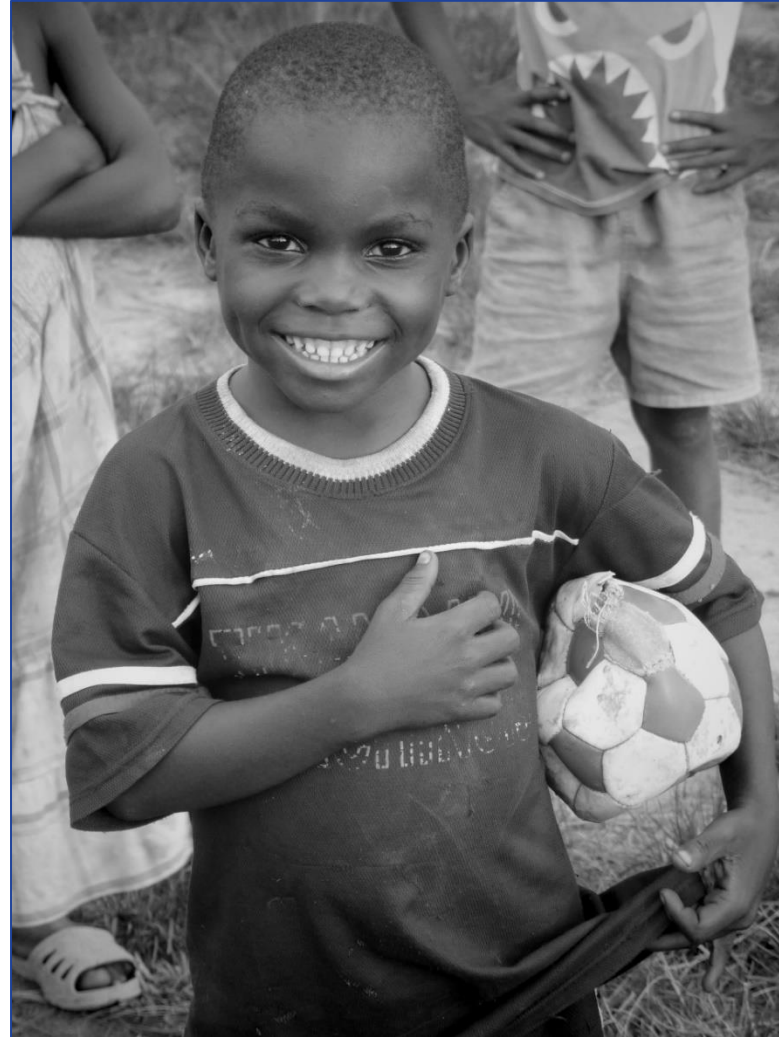
Off to Congo!

We moved to Congo with Jacob (3) and Manuela (18 months). Robert had been out twice by this time to visit and we felt God was guiding us to a small town called Impfondo in the north of Congo surrounded by dense rainforest but where there was a Christian hospital and where we could be part of the missionary community there and work with the local church.



Ambassadors Football, Congo

We were in Congo for just under 2 years but God did amazing things in that time and we saw the impact of local Christians who were inspired and equipped to use their love of football for the sake of the gospel. We are still in touch regularly and Robert has returned twice since we left in order to run further coaching trainings and help the work.



Africa Regional



In 2016 we were asked to take on the Africa Regional role but Impfondo was too remote and not a good base to travel from and so we based ourselves in Dakar, Senegal. Several factors influenced our decision such as there being a good school for the kids, a missionary community to be part of and good travel connections, but a key reason was because we have always had a heart for reaching the unreached and working in that context. Robert did this job for 3 years or so and it was a privilege to visit and support the various Ambassadors works across Africa and to see their ministry first hand.



Senegal, West Africa

Connecting people to Jesus through football.



After 3 years in the Africa role, Robert decided to step down but we still wanted to be involved with unreached people and so began to look into ministry opportunities here. Despite missionary presence in Senegal for many years now, evangelical Christians account for only 0.2% of the population and in fact over 50% would be classed as 'unreached'. That's a huge number who are going to a lost eternity. Literally millions, and it is a similar if not starker scene in many of the neighbouring countries too.

But if you have ever been to Senegal, or any part of Africa really, you will know how much people love football and we have always found that to be a good point of connection to build relationships and share the gospel. And so we pray that as we develop our ministry here and help and encourage others to use football to share the gospel, God will bring many to come to know and follow Jesus!

Institut de Theologie Evangelique du Senegal (ITES)

It is always amazing to look back over the years and see God's hand at work and the story He weaves through our lives. In the early days of starting the work in Northern Ireland we took several playing tours to Senegal and worked with Pastor Youssouph Danfa. Then, a couple of years ago while we were thinking and praying about the future work in here, I visited Pastor Youssouph who was now serving as the Director of the Evangelical Theological Institute of Senegal (ITES). As we talked together that day, the idea of hosting our ministry at ITES began to take shape and now, 2 years later we have agreed a partnership with ITES and are excited about launching and establishing the ministry there.



Pastor Youssouph Danfa
with Matt Dobson in
Senegal in 2006.

ITES Bible College is situated by Sanghe village just outside Thiès, the third largest city in Senegal with an estimated population of more than 600,000. The College is only 72km from Dakar and so within easy access of the capital.



Ambassadors Ministry & Training Centre

Our vision at Ambassadors is pretty straightforward ... to connect people to Jesus through football and our experiences in Impfondo showed us the potential of engaging the church and mobilising Christians who love football to use their gifts for the sake of the gospel. We would love to see that happen here too and, over the past year we have already started to gather like minded pastors, missionaries and others in order to look at ways of working together.

As we develop the Ambassadors Centre here in Senegal and partner with ITES Bible College, we hope to not only reach out to the nearby village of Sanghe and the wider community, but also to train and mobilise others in a way we wouldn't be able to do on our own.

- Ambassadors Youth Academy
- Football Camps
- Ambassadors Football Club
- Tournaments
- Tours



Next Steps ... building a solid foundation

Team:

Quite a few times over the past months we have come across Matthew 9 vs 37 & 38 and we do feel that God has asked us to pray for more workers for the harvest. We would love to have others join us who share our vision and can be part of the team here in Senegal.

Housing:

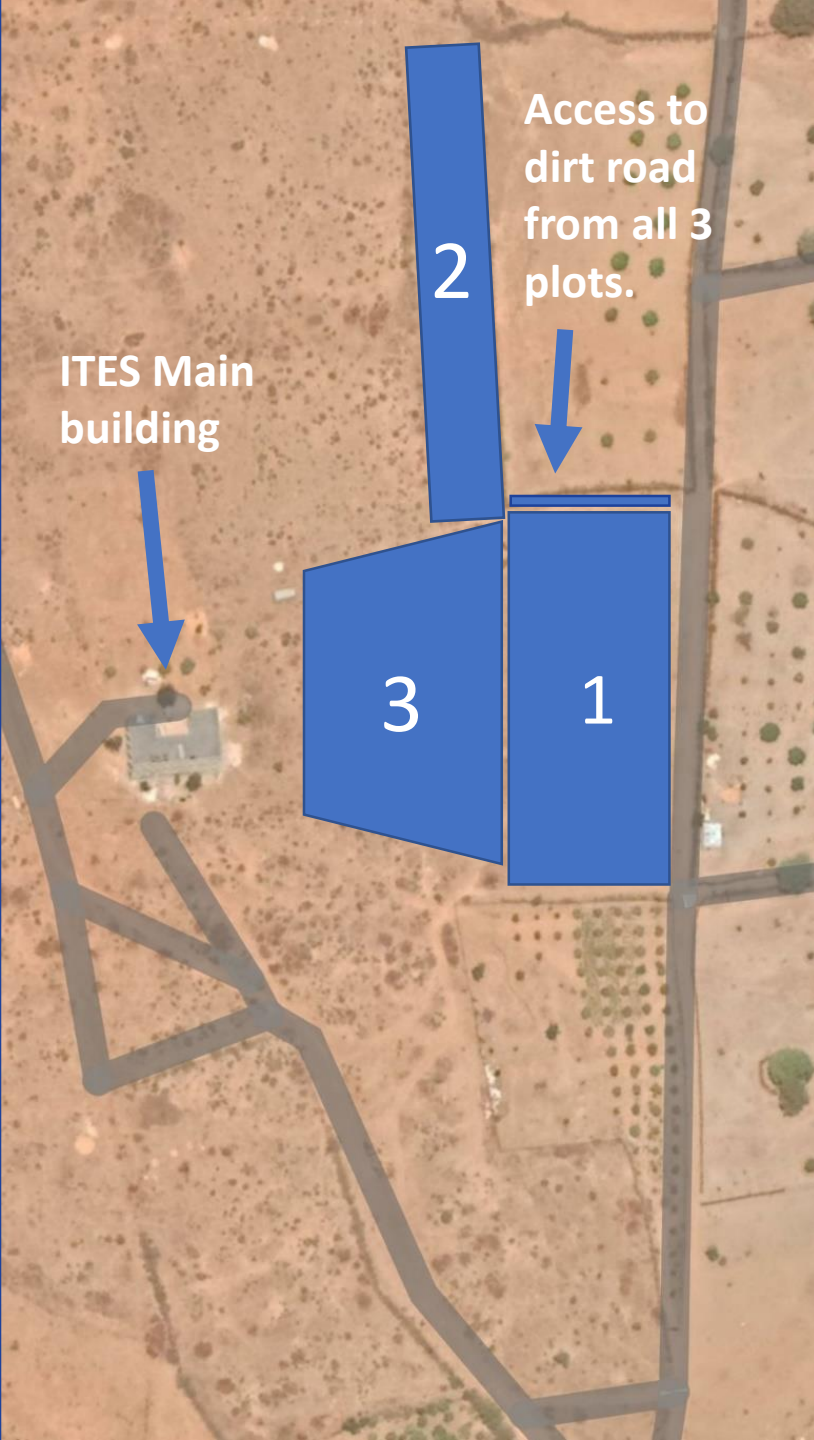
We would love to live as close to ITES as possible so that we can be part of the local community and build strong relationships. We have considered renting in Thies but this is a 15 minute drive away and we know we would then be torn between the community and neighbourhood there and also trying to build relationships in Sanghe. Our preference is to live at ITES but in order to do this, we will need to buy land and build housing. We have found some suitable plots and would appreciate your prayers as we look to make decision on this. We have some funds that we can put towards this and we trust that God will provide as we step out in faith.

Foundation:

There are some other practical things that we need to focus on in the coming year:

- Legal Registration of Ambassadors Football Senegal.
- Language study for Kyla.
- Visits to Sanghe/Thies to get to know the area, people, churches, schools etc.





Plot 1: First Priority

- Estimated price 10 Million CFA = £13,000.
- 110m by 55m
- Ideal for a football field, fairly flat and we wouldn't need to do much to be able to start our programs here.



Plot 2: Second Priority

- 145m by 22m.
- We're not sure yet if this plot is for sale but it is level ground and would be good for housing. Initially we just need to build a house for ourselves but in the future would love to have others join us.



Please pray that God would clearly guide in all of this. We trust Him to open doors and to provide for what He knows we will need for this project. Initially we would love to be able to buy Plot 1 to use as a football pitch and also plot 2 so we can build a house. Plot 3 is also for sale and would be a good site to have in the future as we look to develop the ministry but it's not essential right now.

Pray!!

We praise God for how He has led and guided us to this point and for His faithfulness and provision for our family. Yet this is a new challenge and we would value your prayers as we step out in faith.

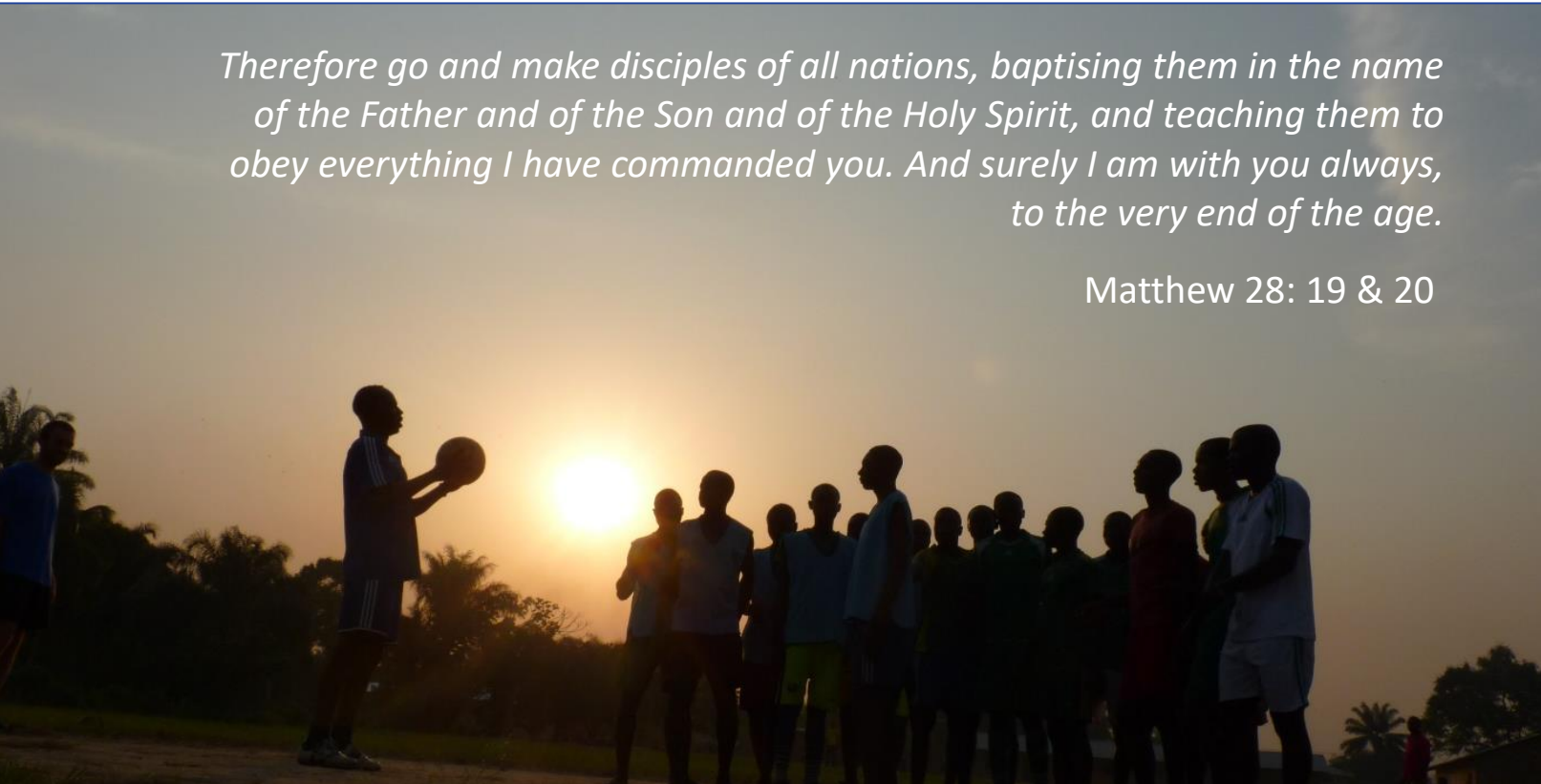
- Pray for wisdom and discernment, and that God would clearly guide in practical decisions that need to be made regarding the idea of buying land and building housing. This is a big step for us but would provide a strong foundation for Ambassadors here and would be an investment for the future.
- Pray for our family with all the changes and challenges that lie ahead as we consider moving. This will mean a change of school for the kids and so although it is exciting to move forward into what God has called us to, it is also daunting and there will be many challenges ahead. Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for favour as we meet new people and build relationships with those in Sanghe village.
- Pray that God would work in the lives and hearts of the people of Sanghe.



We believe that God has been leading us in this direction over the past couple of years and we are excited as we step out in faith. There will be challenges ahead and yet Jesus commands us to go into all the world, making disciples of all nations.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28: 19 & 20



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If you are interested in knowing more about a specific aspect of this or would like to get involved or support in any way then please get in touch!

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