



AMBASSADORS
FOOTBALL



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2 v 10

The Cuthbert Family

Serving with
Ambassadors Football
in Senegal, West Africa



FOOTBALL
FAITH
FUTURE

rkcuthbert@gmail.com

Summer Teams

Over the past few years we have had to cancel various teams and groups who wanted to come out. Praise God this year it seems that things will be open and we are praying that 2 groups will be able to make it. Just last week I met a man here who shared how he had come to faith in Jesus as a result of a short term team visiting his village many years ago. He said he only spent time with them because he wanted to practice his English but their testimony had a significant impact on him! Please pray that this will be the story of others as a result of the teams that come this summer!

Northern Ireland Playing Tour

The first group is a playing tour from Northern Ireland coming in June. There are 12 players signed up so far who will be involved in coaching kids as well as playing some matches. Pray for all the planning and preparation that go into this and that God would work in and through the team to share the love of Jesus with those they meet here.

Edenderry CE

There is also a possibility of another team coming from the youth group in our home church. 20 years ago this year they sent a team to Senegal (which my sister was on) and so it would be great to have another team this year!



Sanghe Village Visit

Please pray for our upcoming visit to Sanghe on 26th February. We are planning to take out a men's and U12's team to play against the village teams. We want to continue to build relationships in the village as we look towards moving there and developing the work at the Bible College. Pray that God would give us favour and that we will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with these people. Sanghe is a Serer village and I have copied some information about Serer beliefs from 'The Joshua Project' website.

Most Serer adhere to traditional beliefs while some have converted to Islam and others are Roman Catholic. The Serer have been very gradual in accepting religions outside of their traditional beliefs. Even though people claim to have accepted Islam there are still many traditional beliefs included. Combining these two systems of beliefs is called "folk Islam". All systems of belief among the Serer include a type of charm. The Muslims wear a picture of a Marabou (a holy Islamic man) and a portion of Quaranic scripture in their charm. This is believed to give the charm power and bless the wearer. Catholic believers wear a necklace with a picture of Christ or a Diocese in their charm. Animists wear a charm with a bone, shell or dried portion of an animal or ancestor who died long ago. Pray that the Serer may find the true freedom in Christ. There is little isolation or persecution of those who turn from traditional beliefs which is unusual and special among the various Senegalese people groups. Pray that the Serer will embrace this freedom and start churches that will grow and reproduce in cities and villages.





Champions of Africa!!

Senegal beat Egypt in the final of the African Nations Cup to become African Champions for the first time! Needless to say this has been a huge deal for the country and the President announced the following day would be a public holiday! We set up a projector outside our house and showed the game on a neighbours wall! It was great fun to watch with everyone despite so many mosquitoes and the party went on across the city through the night!

Yakaar Football Centre Update

Things continue to develop with the Yakaar Football Centre. While we were home at Christmas there were a few gifts that came in towards this which we are very grateful for. We now have enough to fully cover Phase 1 which was to buy the land for the football pitch and get it playable. In the coming weeks we hope to get goal posts made and level the ground so we can start using it. Our next goal is to buy an adjacent plot of land and build a house so that we can move down and live on site as it will be much easier to develop things once we are there.

Visitors

Please pray for **Jonny Doey** and **Simon Magee** (Ballysally Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland) who will be visiting us from 9-16th April. Pray for good health, safe travels and that this trip would enable them to get a good picture of the work here in Senegal and how the church can better pray for us and get more involved. We have had a wonderful connection with Ballysally for many years now and so it is great to be able to continue this.

Please also pray for **Ben Marais** (South Africa) who plans to visit us in March. Ben serves on the Ambassadors Africa Leadership Team and we hope his visit will coincide with our next coaches training day on 19th March so he can teach at that and get to see those we are involved with.



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F O O T B A L L

Thank you so much for your interest, encouragement and financial support for the ministry God has called us to. We don't take this for granted and appreciate you taking the time in the midst of the busyness of life to support us and be part of what God is doing in Senegal.

Thank you!

Robert

rcuthbert@ambassadorsfootball.org
(00221) 77-411-4563

Kyla

rkcuthbert@gmail.com
(00221) 77-411-4541