

“For God so loved the world, that He sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Introducing people to Jesus and helping them experience His power to change the world through sport.

King Road Church, you may recall that in my last update I shared about the change in plans that saw our group heading to Honduras instead of Haiti. Through our time in Honduras, a constant question in my head was why did God want us to come here? As we engaged with people and interacted with the ministry already taking place, we were able to hear about how our trip was an answer to prayer for our hosts. In fact, the last AIA volleyball team tour to go to Honduras was in 2008!



When we are willing to be flexible and hold our hands open, God uses our actions for His purposes. Now, this is not always easy, it was extremely difficult to relinquish control of our schedules, and not always have an answer for what would be happening next, but we saw God show up through our opportunities to build relationships, share testimonies, pray for people and compete. Below are three brief stories from the trip.



On the second day of our trip, our girls team travelled to the Olympic village to compete against members of the Honduran Junior National team. Kathy, an assistant coach with the women's national program shared with me her answered prayer....

Along with her national team position, Kathy is also a coach at an International High School (IST). This is a faith based, private school that has been the top female program in Honduras over the past three years. As we chatted at the Olympic Village, she shared with me her life story: leaving Honduras to play at a Community College in Florida. God answering her prayers to provide her an opportunity to play at an NCAA school, participating on the national team of Honduras and then coaching. Woven through this story were numerous answers to prayer. Her desire to give God glory for her journey was evident.

She also shared with me that at the end of February, she was planning and praying for an opportunity for her High School team to receive some additional training/competition. It was during the moments of her prayer, that she received the email from us at AIA asking if there was an opportunity to partner in Honduras. God answered another prayer.

It became clear that two things were important for Kathy, competing hard and competing for the Lord. As their team cheer went, "For Him we play to win, TEAM!" On our last full day in Honduras, Kathy notified us that the head coach of the national team had been fired and she was now in the interim role. A combination of results, lack of trust from parents and coaching style led to this decision. Kathy coaches to transform her athletes and this is a stark contrast to the coaching culture in Honduras which is largely transactional.

Would you continue to pray for her ability to be a Christian based, transformational coach as she coaches at the highest level?

Louis is a teacher and coach at a faith based, International High School (IST). A former pro volleyball player, he shared with our athletes...

about his experiences playing volleyball around the world. Through his testimony three things were evident:

1) The sport of volleyball breaks down numerous boundaries. Especially at the international level, when different nationalities are competing together, sport provides a common language.



2) As Canadians, we have an open door that many other nationalities do not. The vast majority of countries around the world are welcoming to people from our nation and this provides us with an opportunity to share the language of sport and faith with them.

3) Louis clearly stated that as volleyball athletes and coaches, "We are missionaries." Through integrating faith and sport, opportunities will always rise to share about your faith and the impact it has on why you approach sport the way you do.

Would you continue to pray for Louis as he coaches with IST and the National Team programs in Honduras?



Megan is a member of our Canadian Women's National Team. She joined our tour roughly two weeks before we departed and she brought a unique perspective...

As a new Christian, Megan had a profound impact on our team and those in Honduras. Her life story of searching for meaning and value everywhere as well as the narrative of God's pursuit were inspiring.

A key question with each athletic group we engage with is: What is your motivation? This question directs athletes and coaches to examine the heart of why they do what they do. Is it for fame, pride, money, value, affirmation (all things out of your control)? Or are you motivated to glorify God in what you do, finding your value in Him (this is within your control)?

As a professional athlete, Megan was able to share the challenges of this question. When you are paid to perform it becomes easy for your motivation to come from external sources, yet the pressure that comes with this is relentless. When your motivation and value comes from an external source, you will never be good enough.

During one of our quiet times, Megan had personal breakthrough. Coming back to the group, she shared through tears of her understanding that her value comes from what Jesus says about her, not the world. This value requires no works from us to be earned, it is freely given ("For God so LOVED the world...").

This topic of motivation and value reveals one of the deepest lies within sport culture, that you need to earn your value. Would you pray for Megan to continue to live in the freedom of God's love for her, as well as to be a witness in her sporting environments?

Updates & Prayer:

The sunny weather here in BC was a huge blessing for Vanessa and Annalea while I was gone. They were able to spend lots of time outside enjoying the new life that Spring brings. This month, we are looking forward to family celebrations around Easter, as well as a weekend trip to Kelowna.

- Praise for the support of each of you in our ministry.
- Praise for our trip to Honduras and the safety we experienced.
- Pray for me as I help out with a club team in BC for the next few weeks.
- Pray for our AIA spring/summer staff and programming

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of people like you.

Serving Christ together with you,

Jason & Vanessa

