

Sports and the Kingdom

By: Martin Bateman

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Welcome, everybody. I've just been told that I've reminded somebody of Madonna because of my microphone, but I don't think that's a compliment. I'm not really sure what to do about that, but it gives me a bit of mobility anyway. And I don't dance, so don't worry. Just to make sure that you're in the right place. This is the needlework seminar for using that. No, sorry. It's sports and ministry. And I will try not to use the word sports because that's not an English word, because I'm English. So, I have to apologize to translate it's about sport and ministry around the world. But just forgive me because I am a foreigner, and so I might say things that you don't understand.

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So, this is about bringing the aroma of Christ, Oz may, I love that expression around the world through the international language of sport. My name's Martin. I just want to introduce myself. I quite like the idea. Please come forward. Come forward. I feel like I'm the pastor right now. Welcome, everybody. International churches and fellowships are all the same all over the world. The people always don't want to sit at the front. So, I did have a shower this morning. I put my deodorant on as well. So, for those that can't hear me properly or want to see better, there is space at the front still, and those that come in late, I think, can be able to come forward.

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And my name is Martin. I come from a place called Manchester that's in England, part of the United Kingdom. And I work with Operation Mobilization, which by now you're probably

getting sick and tired of people from OM talking to you. But it's a privilege for me to be part of a fellowship that's involved in international work around the world, trying to share Christ's love with people, especially those that have never heard about him once. And I don't want to go through my whole life story. You've heard George's already, probably, and maybe here a few others along the way. But since I was 17 years old, I've been involved with OM, and now I'm really old. So that's a long time ago, since before some of you were born, which is kind of scary. And in 1993, I first came to California, and the first thing we did was go to a gas station and get a Big Gulp tub, which I said, that isn't a cup, that's a bucket.

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And so, this was like the saying of the whole trip that we had, go, and get a bucket of Pepsi or whatever at the gas station. But California has made a big impression on my life since 1993. And Biola University was part of that first trip. We spoke about North Africa in your Chapel in the gymnasium one morning and saw an amazing response as people heard about the needs of North Africa and wanted to get involved through giving and through praying and through going two years later, we had 25 students come out to our summer program that I was helping to organize in those days into Morocco. And even this last January, I believe that a group of you were there going out through OM USA into North Africa. Lisa and Ashley are here with me as well, and they actually live in the United States, so it's good to have a little connection and maybe you can stand up and do you want to say anything? You can welcome them? Yes. Do you want to say just any words?

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I'm Lisa. This is Ashley. We work with OM here in the States, but we both served overseas in Europe doing some sports ministry, but also other types of ministries that OM does. So, if you guys have questions, we have opportunities for short term trips, internships, and long-term options after you graduate. So that's to go for two years or longer. So, if some of the stuff that weren't clear about interests you, you can come and talk to us. And if you're not interested in sports, but you're just here for staff or credit, we can still talk to you about other options that don't involve sports as well. We have more info.

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We carry this grand piano around with us just to look after our books. We felt like it gives a good impression. So, there's going to be just a few examples. We're into books, as you might have realized in OM with George speaking yesterday, I wasn't quite as in as George with the SMU and everything. So, we don't have a Martin Bateman package or anything for you to take away. But we do have some examples of books that are about sports ministry. And the reason that they're on the piano is because you often don't get so many titles about sports and ministry and how it all works together in your average bookshop bookstore. So, there are some titles that you can look at. And if you're interested in purchasing one or taking one away, then you need to talk to one of us and we can actually order them for you or get them to you because there are some really good resources around that I'm going to talk about a bit later.

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So, this is a seminar, and the idea is to encourage and give you information about sport and ministry, and I hope that it can give a little bit of a background about sports and the Kingdom of God, biblical information about where sport fits into God's Kingdom.

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But hopefully it will give you some information as well about some of the ministry that we're doing around the world in OM through sport. So, to get the basics right, I work with OM. I have done for 19 years. My name is Martin Bateman, and for the first ten years I was fully involved with the work in North Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, and then based in Spain, organizing summer programs that went into North Africa and also representing that area around the world in presentation teams. Then I was challenged in 1996, actually by George VUA. Hopefully some of you were challenged yesterday by George Verwer, but it can be quite a challenging in a good way. And so, I was challenged to think about bringing sports into OM as a focus for ministry.

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OM has got all of its workers all over the place doing lots of different things. And sport wasn't a focus or an emphasis. Since then, we've been trying with a small team to develop the ministry through sport around the OM world. And I'm trying to use technology, which is always a bit tricky, but we'll see how we go and hopefully we'll have some interaction, and you'll see some videos and also hear about some of the news of what we're doing.

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So why sports? The first thing I'd like you to do is just to turn to a couple of your neighbors and think about a couple of questions to do with sport. Sport in the Kingdom of God, sport, and ministry. Why should sport be a good thing to bring Christ to the world? We have a whiteboard that nobody can see, but we're going to try and put some of the answers on the whiteboard, and then at the end you can come and see them, but we can talk about them and hear the answers as well. So, these are the questions. Why should sport be a good thing to bring Christ to the world? Do you know stories of the positive impact of sport? Do you know stories of the negative impact of sport? There could be general stories or there could be personal stories that relate to you.

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I'd like you to turn to three or four or three others, probably groups of four, maybe five, if you can. There's quite a lot of us and just spend a couple of minutes talking about that. You're very bold people from the US, always very confident. From age five, you've been doing, bring and share and tell and share and things. We don't do that in England, so you'll be used to this. So, make friends. You already know your neighbors. Anyway, talk to them and these are the questions. And then you can shout out some of the answers after about 3 minutes.

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I don't want to talk for too long myself. I want to hear from you. But also, we haven't got a lot of time for this seminar anyway. So, anybody got any suggestions of why should sport be a good thing to bring Christ to the world? Wow. Hands up. I'm so impressed. You're good students. Look at that. There's one at the back. Yeah, well, that's even more than just one point, really. But that's great. It transcends culture and it's a great way to form relationships even without knowing

the language. There was one over there. Okay. Brings people together. That's different. It's a great thing to gather people together. Anyone else? You all got the same mind. Yeah. Great principles that you could teach through sport, maybe. Is that fair enough or is that what you mean?

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Yeah. Okay. You can use analogies through sport that can relate to biblical stories or principles like rock climbing and ropes for Christ in our lives. Great. Anyone else for the wise? Yes. And all the ground. Great. Yeah. People enjoy sport. This is very good. It's a good principle to remember if you're from the Western world. Well, in Britain, we're a bit worse, I think, than the States. But you're not really often encouraged. Well, it's changing a bit these days, but you're not really supposed to enjoy being a Christian, you know what I mean? Sometimes it's like, well, you've got to obey the rules, and if you do something that's really you really like it. Oh, no. Are you really supposed to enjoy this Christian stuff? That's kind of one of the principles that sometimes gets talked about, certainly in Europe, I think it's the old Puritan and Calvinistic, all sorts of doctrines that would encourage us to sacrifice, and therefore you don't enjoy things. But enjoying sport is a great thing because in the enjoyment, you have a chance to be able to just smile, have fun and explain that you can enjoy Christ as well in your lives.

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There was a hand over here. Yeah. So, yes, scripture actually can relate to sport as well. So therefore, to think, why could sport be a good thing? The Apostle Paul talks quite often, actually, about sport, because I've been involved in sports ministry for about ten years, it's like they're

drummed into my head. There's, like every verse that you can imagine. But running the race with perseverance marked out before I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, the strength that I have, and then everybody runs a race, only one wins the prize. One of George Verwer's favorite verses, actually, I buffet my body, it's the King James Version, I only ever hear him say that. So, I'm not sure what it says in a modern version, but I beat my body into submission. That's what the Apostle Paul says, using the same verb that would be used in the Olympics in those days in Greek for the punching that you would have in a boxing match. We can have a talk about that if you have issues with whether that's a sport for Christians or not. But anyway, some of the positive impacts of sports.

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Does anyone have good examples, or will I go for one or two if you've got any? There's one their John, Hat? Soccer, football. Well, yeah, I'm impressed because of foot and ball. That's why it's called football. But I understand that sometimes you get football anyway. But that's okay. Yeah. Great. So, bringing kids out in Mexico, there's one back there. So, let's think of just positive at the moment and then yeah, that is very good. The teamwork aspect of being in sport and being on a team and relying on other people and learning from them, you can learn so much through that. That's very positive. Let's open up for negative things through sport as well. I was going to say, yeah, go on. That was the other you. Yes, it can become a God. Sport can definitely become a God. And I am definitely not saying that sport is good. That is not a statement which is correct. God is good. Jesus Christ in our lives is good. And sport, I would say, similar to drama or music, is something which God has created with our abilities and possibilities to be able to practice sport and our physical bodies.

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We can worship God, so we can worship God through sport, but we can also abuse that privilege that we have that ability, and it can become something that can be used for evil as well as good. But there are more people. There's a hand over here first, I think. Yeah, terrible. Can you believe it? I can't believe it, yeah. No. As an Englishman, there are good and bad things that happen when you travel internationally. Most people when I say I'm from Manchester, say Manchester United, say it's the international language. It's my team. I was this small when I first went to a game [gestures with hands]. But also, the next word that they can say in many places, especially the Arab world, actually is hooligan. English hooligan. And that's a word that English people have given to the world because we were the hooligans that would fight around soccer games, especially now it's so controlled in Britain, it doesn't happen in sport. It just happens on a Friday night when drunk English people go onto the streets. But in other countries, it happens. So, there can be violence through sport over here.

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We'll go around there and then to you. Pride. Yeah. It demands more of your time, and that can be a bad thing. Over demanding and pride. So, there were a couple of more couple of the lady. Yeah. Being too competitive can bring out the bad in you. There are some people here that would hear that and go, can you be too competitive? And others would say, how horrible that sports people, oh, they're so competitive. It really annoys me. And I'm kind of in both camps because I love competing and I do like winning, I must admit. But at the same time, maybe it comes from being a Manchester United fan, but I spent 24 years of my life waiting for

Manchester United to win the English League, and they never won. Liverpool always won. And so, then we started to win, and I could enjoy it. But I'm quite kind of magnanimous because I know what it's like to lose, really. So just to let you know, Manchester United lost in a game against Liverpool last Saturday, 4-1, which is a bad result, but we'll probably win the League anyway. So, I'm happy because we're still in first place. But yeah, you can be too competitive and sometimes you can be not competitive enough, but there are two sides to it.

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And then there was one more over there before this chap here, I think. No, the gentleman there. Yeah, it's true. Another thing I'd just like to mention, which I think is positive and therefore can be a negative. I'm a bit worried now. The negative list is so long, but that's not a bad thing. It's good to have balance because you can always talk about the positives of sport a bit too much. But people can have great role models. And sports people make role models kind of, whether they like it or not. It's a good analogy for the Christian walk, really. I always remember that Jesus said, you will be my witnesses. And I came to a realization about that verse just a few years ago. Really? I always thought, well, yeah, we're being told that we must be witnesses. But I think if you look at it, Jesus says, you will be my witnesses to the Jerusalem area, to the ends of the Earth. And it's a fact that as follows of Jesus, we are witnesses. We represent Jesus in whatever we do, whether it's good or bad, we will be a witness. And so, it's not just about being a good witness and sharing your faith with everybody.

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It's about testifying about Jesus in your life. And that happens. And in sport, we have great opportunities to be examples of good, but it can also be a great example of bad. And in role models, we have role models like David Robinson, just showing my age. He was a basketball player from the last Millennium. No, just in the 1990s. And hopefully you've heard of him. Have you heard of him, David Robinson, very tall, seven foot one? I'm an Englishman and I know about him, but very strong Christian and believer and shared his faith a lot. But also, he's a great role model.

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Then somebody like David Beckham is a role model whether he likes it or not. And he can try not to be, but he's actually, relatively considering he doesn't trust Jesus as his savior, he's not a bad role model, I guess. But then you've always got the influence of sport for negative being Michael Phelps is very famous in Britain, and at the moment he's very famous because he got photographed with an item with which you could smoke drugs. This is what I understand. It's like nothing was proven about this whole situation but because of it, he is therefore, it's like got to go through this whole aspect of apologizing and being bad. But he realizes that he's a role model. And in England, we have a lot less Christians in the media and other things. And so, we're just kind of cynical English people. And it's like, well, he always does this, doesn't he? Did it after the Athens Olympics as well, apparently, he got for drunk driving and now he's been photographed with this thing, for the secular British, it's like that's okay, you didn't get caught, did he? Just got a photograph. But that's what they say.

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But then the implications, obviously. And I think it's good as well that his contriteness. Is that a word? And his apologies and wanting to be a better role model is actually quite a good example. Anyway, we shall press on. Thanks for that. Some things to do with sport are good and bad. And we'll come back to other aspects of sport and ministry in a moment.

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What is Sports Link? Just to give you an overview of that, it's part of OM and you've heard from George and others. And the aim about what OM is so Sports Link's aim is to link the OM teams that we have in 110 countries, more or less 50 people, to link them to sports and ministry and to help other sports organizations link into what OM is doing. So, OM has principles and purpose and vision to reach out in certain countries and we try to add sports into what they do. Basic information about Sports Link, now we just have a commercial break for a moment. And so just check that the technology works. I'm going to just show you a short video about Sports Link. So here we go. [Shares clip: inaudible 00:20:15]

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Great end of the commercial, back to the seminar. But there's information, more information about Sports Link and what we do to follow up the video. OM has got an international purpose to develop and equip people and motivate them for world evangelization, strengthen and plant churches. And so, sports purpose is linked into that, trying to help OM fulfill its purposes by initiating and developing sports ministries in OM fields. And then for Christian sports people. And you might be those from high school kids that play on a team up to professional players. We want to give people opportunities to be able to go around the world with their gift of sport and

use that as an opportunity to get involved in other parts of the world. One of the principles that we have is Two Timothy, two two, which especially for our training opportunities that we try to develop sports ministry that you've heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Our values that we talked a little bit about when we came to why sport and what's positive and negative, sport has value in itself. It's not necessarily that it's a good thing, but there is value in the ability that we have to play sport. It's a gift from God, and we appreciate that.

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So, we want to give value to sport and not just say this is something that we're using just to be able to share about Jesus, because that's not true, really. We want to be able to give an emphasis on developing people in the sports realm as well. Through sport, we can worship God. As I mentioned earlier, we can give glory to him for our abilities. And as we mentioned in some of the points earlier, it's an environment for growth, for ourselves in teams, for evangelism as we can share and for discipleship. And it's a common language and a bridge between cultures. So, we're reaching the unreached through sports ministries in OM

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. And some of the areas that we work with are around major sports events, from the World Cup of football, soccer, to having chaplains and other workers at the World Student Games at various locations and OM's International. So, we've got people on the ground in many places where other organizations might not have them. So, they don't not necessarily sports people, but they can use

their cultural sensitivity and knowledge to welcome people that are chaplains for Olympic teams or national sides.

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And they can be able to link up people that make resources to those that can translate it into various languages that would be useful at something like the Arab League games or the Asian Games in Qatar or when they've been held in Pusan in Korea. We've been involved in ministry there, training for OM people and local people that we know in sports ministry. We've got promotion of sports ministry, funding and helping people link together with sports ministry with other organizations.

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Sports Link has a partnership that's developing with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Just to check how many people here have heard of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes cause it's an American organization, so I just check around the world. It's not so well known because they don't work internationally officially. Some teams have gone and some chapters of FCA have gone internationally, but they don't officially work internationally. OM is very international, and we're trying to link together to work on helping bring North American sports people who love Jesus to other nations. Next month we have the first concrete example of that, really, with FCA Golf bringing a team of nine to Ireland, and we're going to host a golf camp in the west of Ireland.

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And if you know anything about Ireland, it's a very religious place, but a personal relationship with Jesus is not something that anybody would consider unless they come into contact with evangelical Christians. And so, to have a group like FCA, if you go to FCA's website, it's pretty evangelical, you might say. So, you wouldn't normally expect a good Catholic golf club to open its doors to have a group like FCA coming in. But because of the golf and the ability of the golf coaches, they're really excited about the opportunity to bring in some good golf coaching, knowing that they're going to be talking about Christian principles, but they're not going to be hitting people over the head with the gospel, but sensitively they're going to share. So, it's quite exciting to see that develop.

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So, models of sports ministry. I was going to get you to talk to each other again, but I don't think I am because we haven't got time. So, I just want to have you think for a moment about different models of sports Ministry, and they're listed on the next screen. You might have experienced some of these, but some of these might be new to you.

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And the thing about sports Ministry is that it's very varied, and there's lots of creativity involved in sport and ministry. So, if you want to be involved in ministry, you don't have to be a sports person. You can get other people to do the sport. And you, for example, host a tournament to do with sport. I'm going to mention Pakistan a little later, but that's what we do often in Pakistan, hosting tournaments where Muslims and Christians play together in teams. Team Street is a global phenomenon that started in Germany with teenagers coming together and hearing about

discipleship and how they can live lives for Jesus all year round, as well as just in a summer camp. And we do sports activities there, camps, and clinics where you can teach sport. It's so common in North America to have you going to a camp in the summer. Sports camps are very common around the world. That doesn't happen so often. And what we're hoping and what we're trying to do is transport this tradition and this easy thing to do for most North Americans. Take that to places like Moldova and Ukraine, Myanmar, where we've seen people, we've hosted camps and clinics in the past, training of coaches and coaching local people in coaching techniques.

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But that's given by Christians, and therefore, you have a chance to build relationships and be able to share faith through that experience. And that's a really good thing that we've seen happen in Lebanon. As I say, there the Global Community Games you might hear about in a moment. I think we've still got time to be able to just look at a short video about international sports ministry and touring teams. Moody Bible Institute just to create a bit of Holy jealousy. No, Moody Bible Institute great example of being able to take their soccer team. They went on a tour to Moldova last summer. And Ashley, who's here, don't want to create problems. She studied at Moody, but you're all nice and friendly and you didn't want to go there because it's cold and stuff. I understand. But she was on a team that went a few years ago on a sports ministry tour, and this summer the football team, their soccer team went to Moldova, linked up with OM Moldova there, and were part of a tournament that was to do with the end of their football season in Moldova.

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And it was a great opportunity for them to build relationships with the teams that were in a football league during the year and then major event Ministry I talked about earlier and chaplaincy we were involved in OM in the World Student Games in Turkey in Izmir in 2005, helping to host the chaplains that were there to build relationships with very good sports people, very good athletes that go to the World Student Games. It's quite difficult to get to speak to an athlete at the Olympics, but at the World Student Games or the Pan American Games or other smaller events, there's much more access and you can build relationships that result in people coming to know Jesus later on in life, and they could become the Olympic hero of tomorrow. And so, we really believe in being able to build into people's lives in that way. Longer term models of ministry, coaching on teams on a longer-term basis, you have a great chance for influence. You could coordinate, play on a team, obviously. And people have done that within OM in Lebanon and England and other places in the Ukraine as well. Coordinate a League. That's what we have done in Myanmar and also in Moldova and then discipling of sports people happen wherever we have teams within OM Sports link, and that's happening at the moment in about ten nations long term, full time, and we've got 110 countries where we work.

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So, there's great opportunities. If you're interested in going and helping to start sports Ministry somewhere or being part of our teams, please let me know. It's 11:21 and I have to finish at half past, is that right? Okay, so what I think I might do is not show the video now of the International Sports Coalition, but I might put that on at the end whilst people are looking at the books and stuff. But that's a good overview of sports and ministry that OM is connected to. The

International Sports Coalition began in 1985 to bring together national sports ministries like FCA Christians in Sports in England or Sportler in Germany. And there are other organizations at Latest de Cristo in Brazil, and they are brought together in a partnership. And its sports ministry has really exploded over the last six or seven years with training and sharing of resources and opportunities to do sports ministry. And we have resources. As I said before, we've got some books on here, and you might not know about them. But if you're interested in sports and ministry, I put them down here because there are just a few over there.

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This book, Sports Outreach by Steve Connor, gives you anything and everything you might need to know about outreach through sports ministry. And we can get more copies of this for you. There's only one here that you can look through, but it's a great book to have as a resource for your fellowship or for you personally to know about sports ministry. There's a few examples of the Spanish New Testament Laboratory finale that was produced by FCA. We can get more copies of this for you with testimonies of some famous and some not so famous sports personalities around Latin America. And if you're interested in the theology and more of the ideas that come from, where does sport fit in to God's Kingdom message? What the Book says about Sport, is by an Englishman, well, actually Scottish, Stuart Weir, who is a Brit. And so, it's got a few British jokes in that you might not understand. But in my opinion, it's the best resource and reference book about sport and ministry that you could ever read. I've got a few copies here, but I could post you one from England, and we've got more copies of that.

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And this is just an example of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes bible. Has anybody got one of these just out of interest? Yeah, one or two, yeah. And I think they're great with devotionals that you could use in your personal life or with a small group and lots of resources. So come and look at them. You can write your name down and say which book you're interested in, and we can look about getting them to you. So, I have a very bad habit of talking very quickly. So, I hope everything's not just a blur for you right now, because I wanted to get through the information part, and I just want to share a couple of stories before closing of some of the work that's going on around the world. Victor is in the center of this photo. Viktor Lal. He's a Pakistani, and he loves cricket, and he loves Jesus. Not in that order loves Jesus and loves cricket. And ten years ago, he went to his leaders in OM and said, I want to host a cricket tournament. And they said, well, we're not going to give you any money to host a cricket tournament. You are playing cricket. So, he said, okay, but if it works and if I do it okay, could you be interested in coming along? So, he organized it all himself. He borrowed some money and was given money to be able to host a tournament. Eight teams came together, half of them from a Muslim background, half from a Christian background. And they had an opening ceremony. And at the opening ceremony, he invited the leader of OM Pakistan. He invited the general Secretary of the Bible Society and all of the teams.

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And they had a good ceremony at the Stadium. And he said, now we have a special message of welcome from the chairman of the Bible Society. And the man could share his faith. Obviously, if you're the chairman of the Bible Society, that's what you do. And so, they heard the gospel very clearly. He said, also because this is the Easter cricket tournament, we want to explain what

Easter is to every participant, and we will give you each a New Testament in Urdu. And so, they all said, thank you. That's very kind. And things that you can't do in other circumstances in Pakistan because it's illegal to proselytize and to change your religion from a Muslim to a Christian, they could do through cricket.

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And some of you might know that's the Easter cricket tournament from last year that there was a terrorist attack on a cricket team in Pakistan. Less than two weeks ago, the Sri Lankan team bus was attacked and seven people died, no cricketers, but nobody will go and play cricket now from the international community in Pakistan because it's too dangerous. They will not for the foreseeable future. Right now, Victor is hosting the current Easter cricket tournament for amateur teams in Pakistan, showing that there's an opportunity to come together still in spite of terrorist activities, in spite of the danger to be able to celebrate sport. And also, they celebrate and share about Jesus.

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They do the Kids Games, which is a community games for kids, obviously, I guess in Lahore, and this is one of the closing ceremony with cultural events. And the great thing about the Kids Games is that children who are believers get a chance to be able to share together, celebrate life together. And then actually they have a compassion aspect to the Kids Games. They go out into communities and minister to people. And this is at a brick kiln community. People live in, like a shanty town, but it's where all the bricks are made, so there's no real houses there. And they went in, and they gave out packages and they prayed. The children were praying for people, and they

also did that in a local school, local hospital, sorry, and had great chances to do ministry as children, ministering to the community. And they can't really refuse that type of example of Christ's love in action in Pakistan. And you can pray for Victor as you go from here and remember him in this difficult time for Pakistan, sharing his faith.

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In Moldova, the OM Moldova helped to organize a football league for churches. There's training for coaches that's given by Christians. We're hosting tournaments and hosting teams, one of which came from Moody Bible Institute. I didn't put the end bracket on. Oh dear. Bad typing, but I just realized that could mean there could be another Christian College from the States added on before I put the bracket on. So, I'll talk to any representatives of any sports team at Biola. You're very welcome. Don't let all the key people from Chicago get all the glory.

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So, this is the team and what they did this summer and they helped to renovate one of the gymnasiums where they worked. There was the team that was working with the tournament and the different churches represented and these were non-church kids that came. And there's the Moody team at the bottom left. And this is one of the quotes that we had. It's not often that we see hope in boys and girls and in the hearts of people. They have lost all hope of a better future. And that's Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe. And even in a situation where there is an economic downturn, places like Moldova get hit worst. According to my watch, there's about 1 minute left. So, I just want to tell you about Run for the World and show a short video about it. The video is 3 minutes long, so I'm going to go over by 2 minutes. I apologize for that,

but I came from England, so give me an extra 2 minutes. I'll be all right. Run for the World how could you get involved? Well, there are ways in which that you can get involved.

[00:41:34.470]

You can talk to Lisa and Ashley and me about opportunities for short- and long-term work where you can do sport yourself, or you can get other people to do the sport and you go and organize it. Talk to us about that. But Run for the World is a global phenomenon that we started two years ago within OM where people run for 5 km in various locations around the world, raising awareness and money for different projects. This year, there are three projects that you can find information about, and the main run will take place on May 9. But by all, they didn't want to miss out.

[00:42:05.460]

And so, Amanda, God bless her, and a few other people from Biola Athletic Mission Ministry, ministry wanted to be involved. And this afternoon you can run, and you get a credit for being at the thing. Like, it's like going to this College credit, whatever it's called. So, the Chapel credit thing, you can run, and you can give some money towards this great cause of global mission and ministry. You can take part in it with others from around the world. And if you give enough, like probably at least \$10, you'll get a T shirt too, which is quite cool, which I'm wearing and so they're available 04:00 p.m. this afternoon. And so, to finish, I'm just going to leave you with the video from Run for the World and then I would like you to be able to come and talk to us and Lisa is pointing at something there's somebody with a question. Yes. Where do we meet for the run? That's a good question. Amanda is outside. My computer is not working properly.

[00:43:07.620]

Brilliant. So, I will say a prayer and then we can continue and watch the video as you leave.

Hopefully it's going to understand it, so let's just bow our heads and I'll just pray.

[00:43:39.630]

Father, thank you for this opportunity to share with the students here. Thank you for the gifts that you've given us. The gift of your love expressed in Jesus dying on the cross and rising again so that we can have hope and purpose in life and know the creator God personally and I praise you for the ability and the gift that you've given us to act in different ways and that includes sport and I pray that we can all go from here taking those gifts and abilities and using them for your glory and if sport is part of that aspect for our life then you would show us the way forward that we can impact the world through taking part in the run through praying through going ourselves. But show us how we can get involved in Jesus' name. Okay. Thank you.