

## *A Moving Perspective*

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”*

*Rom. 10:15b*

“On the move!” Scripture is full of people on the move, from the nomadic lifestyle of Abraham to the curious crowds that followed Jesus. Writers, such as C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, often speak of Christians “on the move.” People of God are a people of purpose and resolution. They are motivated by the love of Christ and obedience to the Heavenly Father to go, to serve, and to share—to be “on the move.”



I am sitting at the airport in Kigali, Rwanda, having just completed a few days of meetings. Our Rwandan friends strive daily to carry the message of reconciliation to a nation haunted by memories of the mid 1990s genocide. We worked, side by side, using sports to draw people together in the countryside and large cities, such as Kigali. This morning I had coffee with David, a member of the Hutu tribe. In 2005, he attended a football crusade in Byumba, which was jointly sponsored by Sports Outreach and the Charlotte Eagles. Following the time of genocide, David lived near Byumba in a refugee camp because he feared reprisal for the crimes of his people at home. On the day the Eagles came to Byumba, he became a Christian when he heard the Gospel at the soccer match. Three months later, he asked the local Anglican Bishop if he might serve the church. He soon accepted a position and found himself promoting peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation alongside members of the Tutsi tribe. In December 2010, the Bishop, with whom David is currently working, became the Archbishop of Rwanda. Now, David lives in Kigali; I will return there in August. David will accompany me as we tour villages and towns in order to share the Gospel, train others in sports ministry, and promote reconciliation. We will be people “on the move!”

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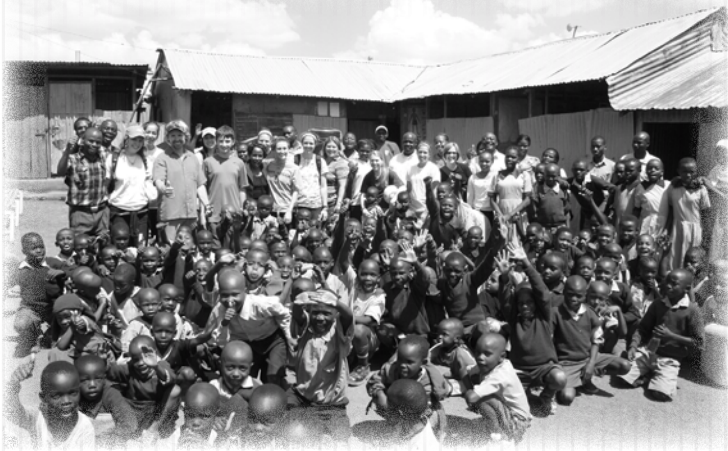
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Later today, I will be in Kampala, Uganda, meeting with the dedicated staff of Sports Outreach. Fourteen members of our Kampala staff make up the Good News Football Team – a soccer team that is often “on the move!” They gather for devotions daily, before heading to four large slums. There, the team shares the Gospel, disciples new believers, and steers others towards salvation, using simple things like a soccer match or a chess game. Several times a month, the Good News Team also travels to distant villages to share the salvation message through soccer, work in remand homes (juvenile prisons that were featured in last month’s newsletter), teach vocational training, and provide housing for street children. Dust never gathers on these purpose-driven young men’s shoes, as they are a people “on the move.”



Next week, I will be working in northern Uganda with the students from Lynchburg College. This team will be “on the move,” as they drill and dedicate a well to Anna, a former classmate. The students will also teach public health, assist with ongoing construction projects, share with HIV positive families, and help the staff to restore hope to a people broken by war and genocide. Along the way, they will witness the restorative power of God’s Word, as they hear testimonies of people who have been delivered from the pit of despair to a right relationship with God and one another. As they work on our farm, they will marvel at how God has likewise restored a once barren land that now produces food AND hope. We will visit, work, and share in such places as Pugwini, Lagutu, Lagwatek, Koro, Bobi, and Gulu – certainly a people “on the move.”

Before returning home, the Lynchburg team and I will also travel to the Mukuru slum in Nairobi, Kenya. We will be like the disciples of Biblical times, traveling everywhere by foot and offering hope and salvation. By playing matches and sharing life-on-life, we will disciple to the people of the slums who are suffering from burdens such as extreme poverty, disease, loneliness, and lack of education. It will be difficult, but led by the Sports Outreach staff and united in the love of Christ, we will persevere and deliver a message of hope – for we are people “on the move!”

### *How Can You Help?*

The Sports Outreach staff in Africa faces many challenges as they strive to be disciples “on the move.” In Nairobi, Kenya, and in Gulu, Uganda, we are in need of new vans (\$14,000 each). In Kampala, the Good News Team bus needs to be replaced (even a reconditioned bus will cost \$26,000). Gasoline in Uganda costs \$7.00 per gallon, and in Kenya, \$8.00. Costs are high, but as we are called to be a people “on the move,” we must have a reliable means of transport. Would you please consider a special gift to help purchase vehicles and fuel?

As you move through your days, may you seek to make each step purposeful by sharing the messages of salvation, reconciliation, and redemption.

*Moving On,  
Rodney*



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