

May 16, 2002

Dear Friend,

It has really been a busy run up to these World Cup games! And now they are here at last. We just received the first of the shipments of materials we had produced in Korea, and it was really great to see some of the result of months of planning and preparation. Now is the time for the teams to come and share the good news with many in Japan and Korea too!

Between CCC teams and YWAM teams and Southern Baptist Teams and Christian soccer teams, there are going to be about 1000 short-termers here focusing on outreach. There is even an AIA staff coming as a chaplain to the soccer team from Cameroon in Africa! All of these workers are connected with local Japanese churches, and some churches will host many of these workers during their stay in Japan.

Please pray for safety as these workers travel here during the last few days of May or the beginning of June. Pray that there will be no trouble with rowdies in the crowds or terrorist problems. Pray that God would use any problems that do occur for His glory and so that many more may hear good news through Jesus!

While I am helping set up for many of these teams, Rochelle is taking the leadership for our local church to host the team from Northwest Bible Church Singles Class out of Dallas, Texas. Pray for her as she hasn't had this type of responsibility for a while, and it should be a good chance for her to get involved personally. Our local church is quite excited and is planning many events featuring the folks from Northwest. The Northwest team of 22 members will actually split into smaller teams and work with 4 area churches near us. Pray that they can see God work through them in spite of the language barrier and often through the Japanese interest in English speakers. One special outreach will feature Texas cooking for a luncheon for ladies, and one outreach will be an overnight with the youth. Andy and Ben will help translate for the Texans during the overnight!

In the ten cities around the country that are actually hosting the games, many teams will distribute tracts to visitors and locals in the train station areas. Pray that people's hearts would be open to receive and read/view the materials given. Pray that many would also respond by checking out the website or contacting us through the mail. Pray that some will stop and listen to the gospel as workers share it through the bilingual soccer 4 Spiritual Laws.

One of the materials we made is a Japanese version of the Athletes in Action video, "The Ultimate Goal". This video features a Japanese Christian athlete sharing his testimony. Pray that many people would be moved through his comments, as well as the testimonies of other soccer players from around the world. Pray that the video may be shown in many church gatherings. We are also planning to show the video on satellite and broadcast TV stations in Japan, enabling many more people to hear of God's grace. There is even a possibility of the video being sold in stores which would be a great breakthrough for the spread of the Gospel.

The Jesus film is included in some of the materials being distributed (video, audio tape, CDROM). Pray that those who receive these would watch the film and come to trust in Christ. Pray that even hearing the gospel on tape would cause many to develop more interest in knowing and learning the Scriptures. Pray that the Lord would help us follow up on their interest well and get them connected to local churches.

Another wonderful book to be distributed is the Gospel of Luke written in 10 languages, and including some soccer players' testimonies in Japanese and English. We hope many visitors from other nations will be excited to receive this book.

There is really so much going on it is hard to put it all into one letter! There are soccer teams playing friendly games and sharing testimonies, doing clinics, etc. There are festival teams setting up booths and doing face painting, offering coffee and the gospel. There are churches hosting kids games events to draw kids to the churches. There are churches hosting soccer watching parties at their churches and inviting non-Christian friends to come watch, also showing them the AIA video and sharing testimonies. Much more!

Please lift us up in prayer throughout the month of June. Most of the teams are arriving in the beginning of the month, but some come later, and the final game is on June 30. Pray for our family as we get involved together in some of this outreach!

Lots to pray for, and let's believe the Lord of the Harvest to draw many to Himself in this time. Thank you SO MUCH for partnering with us in prayer!! We appreciate you!

With love,

Steve, Rochelle, Andy, Ben and Melissa

[www.goal2002soccer.com](http://www.goal2002soccer.com)

[www.goal2002.org](http://www.goal2002.org)

Picture Captions:

Volunteers Committee for Goal 2002 Partnership

Our kids at the globe in Tokyo Disney Sea that we visited with Grandpa in March