

Introducing SportAid

In the last few months, I've been working with our donations team and accounting team to set up their back-end systems to handle a new company that has been created as part of the Power to Change family. The new charity is called SportAid (sportaid.org). It is an arm of our Athletes in Action ministry that combines sport with humanitarian aid. Their 2016 Annual Report explains:

"In many communities around the world, a social crisis is taking place. Children from broken and impoverished families are turning to drugs and gangs as a means of overcoming the isolation and opposition they've experienced. Often, the broken communities these children call home exist in an entirely different world than our own, so how do we bridge the cultural gap?"

Sport has the unrivalled ability to give children a sense of belonging, meaning, value, and purpose no matter where they are from. The structure that a team provides, led by coaches who care about their players, instills a sense of confidence that can stay with a child for the rest of his or her life. And by bringing organized sport to these communities, we're creating truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for children around the world."

A short while ago, SportAid staff ran a missions trip to Paraguay and Peru. On the trip, they ran a training congress for 110 church leaders, where they trained them on using soccer as an outreach to impact children in their community. They then ran sport festivals in a few communities, playing soccer with the kids in pick-up games. These events provide an easy way to connect with the kids, and help add credibility for the church as the community sees the impact and love they demonstrate in



running the events and bringing a team from Canada.

For this trip, SportAid brought along the Trinity Western University men's soccer team. I was intrigued by the fact that although this is a missions trip run by Christians with an obvious focus on sharing Jesus with people, several non-Christian athletes from the team participated as well because they care about sport and humanitarian aid! The SportAid staff had an awesome opportunity to hang out with the guys, talk about what development work looks like from a Christian perspective, and model showing Jesus' love to people. SportAid partnered with a local church in Paraguay to run soccer camps, and these men were also impacted by the joy, hospitality, and humility of the children from the church who were part of the ministry. In the end, two of the men ended up accepting Christ!



The SportAid trips aren't just all play. Two years ago, a SportAid team built a home for a family who was chosen by the church. Touched by the church's generosity, the mother of the family started to come to the church. Her son Pablito began participating in a soccer academy that

SportAid helped kick start and trained leaders for. After seeing a real change in her son, Pablito's mom accepted Christ and now volunteers in the church's nutrition centre which feeds kids in the community on a weekly basis!

Family Update

In each of our newsletters over the last year and a half, we've shared a bit about our family's journey to be involved in God's global mission by actually moving to another country and living among a people that have less access to the gospel than we do here in Canada. We mentioned that we've been walking with an organization called MB Mission, and had been accepted with them but were "on hold" as we adapted to life with a new baby (Naomi) and participated in launching a new church plant. Over the last few months, we began engaging in discussion with MB Mission again to decide if we should start moving ahead with them.

After lots of prayer, meetings, emails, evaluations, etc, MB Mission came to the conclusion that they would not be able to provide what our family would need in a mission sending agency. They wrote a note for us to pass on to you, our prayer and financial supporters:

"The Brinks are wonderful people and we endorse their character and call to service. That said, it was our affection for the Brinks that caused us to take a long time to realize that we just are not the best ministry fit for them. We commend Jason and Shannon to you as outstanding servants of God. We thank you for continuing with them in a supportive way as they find the right organization to send them into their calling. We agree in prayer to that end. "

Prayer Requests

- For us to learn what God is teaching us in this time, and for guidance as we discern what steps to take next in terms of global missions
- Our church sponsored a Syrian refugee family who arrived in December. They have 4 kids, similar in age to ours. Pray for us as we build friendships with them, show them God's love, and help them adapt to life in Canada!

To Donate: Go to p2c.sh/jasonbrink, or call 1.855.P2C.GIVE (1.855.722.4483)



It has been disappointing for us to have this door close after 2 years of journeying and waiting with MB Mission. We wonder why it had to take this long for us to figure out that MB Mission wasn't the right fit for us. That being said, we DO trust that God is at work in this, and that He has used the last 2 years to grow and develop us.

We still feel a strong desire to be involved in global missions, and to have our family live and serve in another culture, but need to spend time seeking God along with our community for what the right next steps are now. For the time being, I am committed to Power to Change, and continuing to serve with them to help people in Canada know Jesus and experience His power to change the world. We continue to appreciate your prayers for discernment and wisdom for our family!

Later this summer, we will be making our annual(ish) flight to Ontario to visit Jason's family. We are staying a little longer than usual, and would love to connect in person with those of you who live in the Toronto/Ottawa/Cornwall areas, who we don't get to see as often! If you would like to connect with us between July 27th and Aug 15th, please get in touch!

*Jason, Shannon, Silas, Toby,
Fiona, and Naomi*