

# GOAL!

GERMANY

By B&M

David was shy, until he scored his first goal.

We met David in 2016, when his best friend Jonas invited our family into the refugee shelter to share an ethnic, Eritrean meal. At the time, we connected more easily with Jonas than with David. That all changed once he got involved in playing street hockey with us. Now they both play regularly on our team, the Rixdorf Beavers. The once-shy David can't stop smiling, and his excitement is contagious. Goal!

Timo was angry, until he started playing with his enemies.

In the summer of 2017, a member of our street hockey leadership team talked with Timo's mother during our intercultural street hockey tournament. We found out that Timo was a right-wing extremist, part of an angry group of men that gave him a sense of significance and belonging, united as they were by antagonism towards their mutual enemies. In that group, Timo was a Somebody. At school and in his broken family life, he was lost. Then he began playing hockey with us, on team with refugees from different cultures. Timo had his eyes opened to the prejudices and racist attitudes that he was propagating, and our street hockey community became a place of refuge for him. Goal!

Phillip was a trouble-maker, until he got kicked off the team.

Middle-aged, rough around the edges and prone to telling crass jokes and stories about the different kinds of "stuff" he liked to smoke, Phillip brought a negative attitude with him wherever he went. His behavior caused him to be expelled from his own American football team, even though he was in fact their captain. Now Phillip

With each hockey goal scored, we are reminded of our Kingdom goal.

is pumped about playing street hockey with us, and is developing a good relationship with his teammates. Goal!

Opportunities for connection and disciple-making abound in our street hockey league. With forty players and four teams in place, we are building a unique community that is both multicultural and multilingual. We have players from every continent except Antarctica! Even the Canadian ambassador to Germany and the EU, Stephen Dion, has been joining us regularly. And with each hockey goal scored, we are reminded of our Kingdom goal: to create a space for relationships to grow and flourish, and to provide opportunities to speak the truth of Jesus. Pray that Christ's love would shine through us, both on and off the field.

# Parenting in Panama

PANAMA

By Sarah Brown

What do the Royal wedding, a traditional Wounaan wedding and a school dance have in common? They have all taught me about parenting.

If our girls were a few years older, I would have woken them up in the wee hours of the morning to have tea and scones and watch the wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and his bride Meghan. In my birth family we are royal watchers. And so I told our girls about this real prince marrying a girl who is now a real princess, because it's part of my family tradition. I want our children to value the traditions of my family.

Here in Panama the traditions to which our children are exposed are vastly different, yet rich and beautiful. At a recent celebration of an indigenous Wounaan wedding, our girls were mesmerized by people dancing to the rhythmic music of flute and drum. As the final seal of the marriage, the Wounaan pour a bucket of cold water over the couple's heads. Our daughter vehemently reminded us - for several weeks - that she absolutely did not want that at her wedding! But if she grows up here, who knows? I want our children to value the traditions of the Wounaan people, who have loved them and accepted them into this community.

The tradition celebrated at our daughter's multi-ethnic school presentation was also very different: neither Western nor Latino nor indigenous Wounaan. It was a startling cultural experience to see my daughter, the only white girl in the group, trying to dance to African music. She obviously stood out from the rest her exuberant schoolmates, with no make-up and only one tiny attempt at hip shaking. I was fine with that, but wondered - will she grow up feeling like the odd one out? I want to teach our children to value every culture's traditions, but also to know that it's ok to be different.

I wish I could shield our children from the broken parts of all the cultures with which we interact. I wish I could give them all the wonderful experiences of my own childhood. But here they are learning to take risks, depend on Jesus for their identity, and value kingdom culture above all. In my heart of hearts, I want this life for them.

# Daily Prayer Guide

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Cecil & Tracy Ramos Thailand	2 K & K Austria	3 Katie Mount Thailand	4 D & M Austria	5 John Ervin Worldwide	6 G & G Restricted	7 Trevor & Joan Godard Mexico
8 Richard & Hazel Funk Austria	9 Alan & Colleen Foster Panama	10 Jon & Bonnie Esau Thailand	11 D & S Restricted	12 B & M Germany	13 Jeremy & Adrienne Penner Thailand	14 A & R Restricted
15 Somdy & Chanh Jusse Thailand	16 Doris Goertz Japan	17 MT Restricted	18 Barbara Block India	19 PK & C Restricted	20 Heinrich & Annie Rempel Germany	21 Einer & Girlesa Zuluaga Panama
22 Liana Penner Peru	23 Junji & Hitomi Nukaga Thailand	24 R & M S Restricted	25 Walter & Ina Reimer Germany	26 Tyler & Cheryl Schulz Burundi	27 Gedas & Kristina Dailyde Lithuania	28 Oasis Restricted
29 Johann Matthies Germany	30 Jen Schmidt Mexico	31 Bob Davis Southeast Asia				