

July 2011

From Mario's desk

It has been a while since our last newsletter, so welcome to our July edition.

At the end of June (26-29th) I was invited to attend a "Summit Against Violent Extremes" in Dublin, which was hosted by Google Ideas. It was an unbelievable experience, GCU made a lot of new friends. Hats off to Google Ideas for making this happen!

After Dublin I went to Guernsey, where I stayed with a friend of mine, Nigel Pascoe, and his family. Guernsey is such a beautiful island, but I must admit I got homesick, there is nothing like Cape Town. Nigel has been fundraising for GCU to build an orphanage, the project is called Goal50. That's all I can tell you at this time...

Being able to attend the summit was an affirmation of just how important the work is that GCU does. You cannot put an amount of money next to crime, we all need to strive and make a difference in the lives of others. I ask of you that if you see someone in need and you have the means to help them, please do so. If you still hate someone please make peace, life is too short to bear a grudge.



One of our coaches took the lock off a Primary school student; just imagine the damage this could have done...



The grade 7 and 8 learners of Woodlands Primary went on an educational trip to our local police station. I have never seen them so excited and could only wish that they had the same level of excitement for their school work. It is really hard for me to understand how our government has no answers to the ongoing crime in our country.

On Mandela day some of the staff from The Backpack and other friends came to Woodlands Primary and did their 67 minutes by working in the vegetable garden, together with the GCU boys and some of the learners of Woodlands Primary.



A question that I ask myself every day is where are we heading, and is there hope? Employment is on the rise, food is scarce and people are becoming more desperate. Then I look at the kids we work with and ask myself what does the future hold for them? And I need to remind myself that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you for supporting GCU, we really appreciate all your assistance ...

Please feel free to come and visit our program, just drop me an email on mario@gcu.org.za.

