



THE VISION of the SALT program is *"to see transformed lives and transformed communities ...*

..... by using the vehicle of sport to build community and then working to impact that community in a powerful way that sees lives changed physically, relationally, emotionally and spiritually."

The Background

As a result of a mission trip to the Solomon Islands in the year 2000 in the midst of that countries 'ethnic tension' a sports ministry was established based around Futsal (small court Soccer). Over the ensuing eight years the ministry rejoiced as kids and young adults were taken off the street and involved in organized sport. Young adult leaders were trained and accredited as coaches, referees and administrators. A focus had been provided for young lives.

The ministry redefined

Like all ministries, review and refinement is an essential part of the process. By 2008 some amazing results had been achieved. In the Solomon Islands sports clinics and leagues had been established, coaching programs conducted, sporting educational scholarships arranged, HIV/Aids education incorporated into the program and the level of Futsal developed to the extent that the National Men's team (the 'Kurukuru') had been proclaimed Oceania Champions and participated in the pinnacle of any sport – a FIFA World Cup.

However, it was recognized that a better framework was required for the operations of SALT.

IN 2009 the attached development model was adopted as a process that moves way beyond sport to include education, health, employment, community development and spiritual discipleship and mentoring. As a result the ministry has continued to see some remarkable results.

IN particular the new focus has concentrated on equipping and discipling indigenous leaders and in partnering with local churches and community organisations to encourage and support their work.

IN the Solomon Islands now the SALT Development Model operates across all four (4) stages. Local sponsors have been sourced to provide resources for all aspects of Futsal competitions. The SALT budget continues to develop the young committed Christian National players through a weekly leadership training program for one day per week and by facilitating their attendance at schools as sports coaches for the other four days per week. We have seen these young leaders blossom, not just in their spiritual life, but as excellent role models in their Nation.

In addition, the SALT team have introduced other partners to champion the educational aspects of community development by providing ongoing scholarships for students in Australia and engaging those Australian schools in long term partnership with Solomon Islands schools.

The model will keep developing as community needs become apparent and willing Christians meet the challenge of truly impacting our world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

BUT, not all communities are the same. What does your community need?

In 2006 the SALT team embarked on **work in Australian Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia and in the remote Kimberley Region of Western Australia.**

In both these regions Soccer (Football) is not the favored sport. It's Australian Rules Football!

Our team *also* found less church groups wanting to be involved 'hands on' in the sporting approach to community. So the flexibility of the SALT model enabled us to build community through the provision of AFL clinics. Our team includes well qualified AFL coaches and we received a ready welcome into the Outback Communities.

The flexibility of the SALT model allowed us to work 'outside' (not against) the church and to then facilitate the contact between the clubs and schools and the churches of those communities.

In the Outback there is also a big demand for teaching assistance in the classroom so our SALT team is able to visit schools and provide classroom help, not just limited to sporting classes, as well as facilitating the educational scholarships of students from the remote Kimberley Region to Sydney Christian schools.

In summary, our SALT experience is that sport opens doors that would otherwise remain closed to the Gospel. Once people recognize a group of Christians who truly want to impact their world the way Jesus did many barriers are broken down. As the Spirit of God works in these relationships, channels of communication are opened, hearts are softened and lives truly redeemed. What a privilege to be a part of God's plan and His mission!

SALT DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Brian Codrington / Chris Thomas, Dural Baptist Church, 2009

STAGE 1 - PRELIMINARY

- Invitation
- Needs defined
- Local Church
- Expectations agreed
- Local coordinator
- Resources(who, when, where)
- Finances
- Partners
- Facilities and venues

STAGE 2 - SALT AT WORK / ACCREDITATION

- Team visits arranged
- Training/clinics
- Accreditation players/referees/coaches
- Establish leagues
- Revisits for follow up

STAGE 3 - PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Elite players overseas
- Mentoring
- Bible studies
- Testimonies
- Education scholarships
- Leadership training
- Inter country comps

STAGE 4 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Australian schools visit
- Work parties from churches
- Employment schemes
- Enterprise development
- Micro-enterprise training
- Enhanced mentoring project focused on sustainability