



News Release Basketball

CIRCLE UP

with Michael Mai

Summer 2022

PROCLAIMING CHRIST THROUGH SPORTS

“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose, I also labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

Colossians 1: 28-29

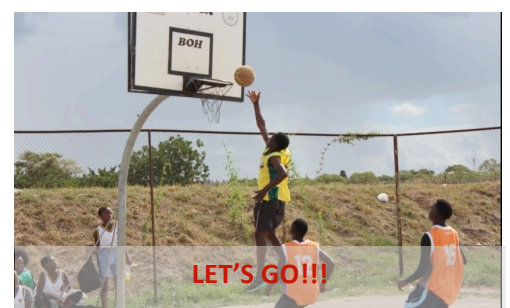
SUMMER 2022

IT'S TIME!!! After a 2-summer COVID break, summer ministry camps are back! And I am really excited about leading our first NRB Tour to Africa in August! We will be partnering with Arthur Zulu (from Lusaka but moved to the USA to play D1 basketball for Sam Houston), A2z (a youth foundation in Lusaka run by Arthur's brother committed to helping the youth of Zambia), the Napsa Hurricanes (the local youth basketball club in Lusaka), SRS International, and Athletes In Action to run the camp in Lusaka.



This will be my first time going back Africa since my family left Liberia when I was a teenager. And even though we aren't going back to Liberia, Africa will be forever logged in a corner of my heart as home. Which is why I was so excited when God orchestrated this opportunity for us to reach out to the youth of Zambia with Christ's love. Talking to our ministry partners, and dreaming about how we can grow this part of NRB's ministry in the future has only made that excitement grow!

But there is a lot to do! Since this is NRB's first tour to Africa, it is my main focus this summer. There are a lot of new logistical things to think about that we don't have to deal with running camps in Europe – vaccines, visas, extra travel. But most importantly, I have been focusing on developing relationships with our new ministry partners connected to Zambia, clarifying vision, and recruiting coaches. I have been really inspired by the ministry / coaching team God is bringing together.



The other big focus has been on fundraising. Since we can't ask African kids to pay for camp and help cover the costs, most of the expenses fall on the shoulders of NRB and our partners in Africa. We have been looking for sponsors to help with the costs, but we are not there yet. We are still trying to raise \$9,000 to cover our needs: \$3000 for Linda and I to travel / \$1500 for camp gifts and gear / \$2000 for room and board for the ministry team / \$2500 for additional travel, insurance, shipping, misc. Please support us in praying for God to provide for these needs. And if you would like to be involved in supporting this ministry financially, we would be very grateful! You can make a donation online at www.nrbasketball.org, or fill out and return the enclosed support card to NRB (address is on the support card).



EUROPE

Even though my focus is on Zambia this summer, NRB is also returning to run camps in Europe again! We are planning on 4 teams traveling to Europe. These teams will be running camps in the Netherlands – Groningen; Germany - Munich, Grimma, and Lorrach; and France – Linas and Valence. I will be in Africa for the first week and a half of these tours, but plan on connecting with and serving on some level the second and third weeks. Please pray for Steve Sorensen (NRB Director), and the Tour Directors / participants who will be traveling to Europe, that God would be present in every aspect of the ministry He has called us to this summer!

“An individual can make a difference, but a team can make a miracle.” Peterson – Eagles Head Coach

ASSISTS:

- Please Pray for the PEOPLE – campers / coaches / tour participants. Pray that God would be actively involved in recruiting the people He has prepared to serve, and that He would be actively preparing the hearts of the campers in Africa and Europe.
- Please pray for the FINANCES. Like most ministries around the world, finances are critical for NRB to survive and serve every year. And like every ministry around the world, fundraising is a huge challenge every year. I need to take a second here to thank the prayer and financial support team God has blessed Linda and me with for so faithfully making it possible for Linda and me to continue to serve here in Europe for the past 15 years. You have truly blessed our lives!!!
- Please pray for the logistics! Especially all the unexpected things that could hit us completely out of the blue in Africa, and the extra challenges that will still exist because of COVID in running camps in Europe.

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The Gym in Lusaka, Zambia

WHY SPORTS?

“A coach will influence more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime.”

Billy Graham