



EVERY

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

FINDING A FAMILY THROUGH FOOTBALL

“Thanks to God, I have found a new family.”
-Mathew, 14, Eastern Europe

“Family” is something that Mathew has desired for a long time. His father left the family when Mathew was two. His mother became addicted to alcohol and so Mathew was placed in an orphanage. Through it all, Mathew was holding out hope that he could find a family.

Two years ago, a local church pastor was looking for soccer players for the Youth for Christ football club, as soccer is referred to in Europe. He found Mathew, inviting him to be part of the team. In addition to soccer, these youth were reading the Bible and learning how to pray. Mathew began connecting with God, realizing that “Jesus came into this world for people like me - and my parents, too. I know Jesus always cares for me.” Just this past year, Mathew asked Jesus to be his God. Now you will find Mathew regularly going to church and attending Sunday School - and still playing soccer.

Youth for Christ in Eastern Europe is staying with Mathew and his soccer team. As they grow older,

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EASTERN EUROPE



YOUTH FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL
 REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE




Youth for Christ will invite them to play in tournaments like one held last month in Minsk, Belarus. Six nations took part in this recent tournament: Moldova, Latvia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. YFC in Eastern Europe is bringing together the nations in their region with every tournament they host.

Each match begins with prayer. Every player is held to a high standard to respect others and play fairly. Teams are asking Youth for Christ to come to their city. "We have a big desire to arrange tournaments in our city and proclaim Jesus through soccer," said a team from Georgia.

Coming in first place was "Recourses of Siberia," a team from Russia. "Grantech" from Ukraine slid into second, and third place came down to a

tense match. The winning third place team was "Trinity" from Moldova! The competition level at these tournaments? Strong! So high was the level of competition that a number of Muslim guys kept forgetting about "namaz," their daily prescribed prayer times. Instead, they kept hearing about Jesus. Throughout the day, the players heard testimonies about Jesus from local businessmen, from coaches, even from other players. In all, more than 100 participants in this tournament heard the Good News of Jesus and were given the opportunity to find a new family.

Thank you for celebrating with us the joy that comes from a life in Christ and a life with sports. Because of your donations, Youth for Christ reaches youth through sports like soccer. Your support is helping youth around the world to find a new family in Jesus Christ. 

"I first got to know Youth for Christ when I was in grade 9. Today I'm a student intern serving alongside the staff as they reach out and share the Gospel to students on school and university campuses. I really thank God for my experience and all that I've been learning because of Youth for Christ. God is using Youth for Christ to build me from the inside-out and to encourage me to live the Good News in my life every day." -Chevy

THAILAND

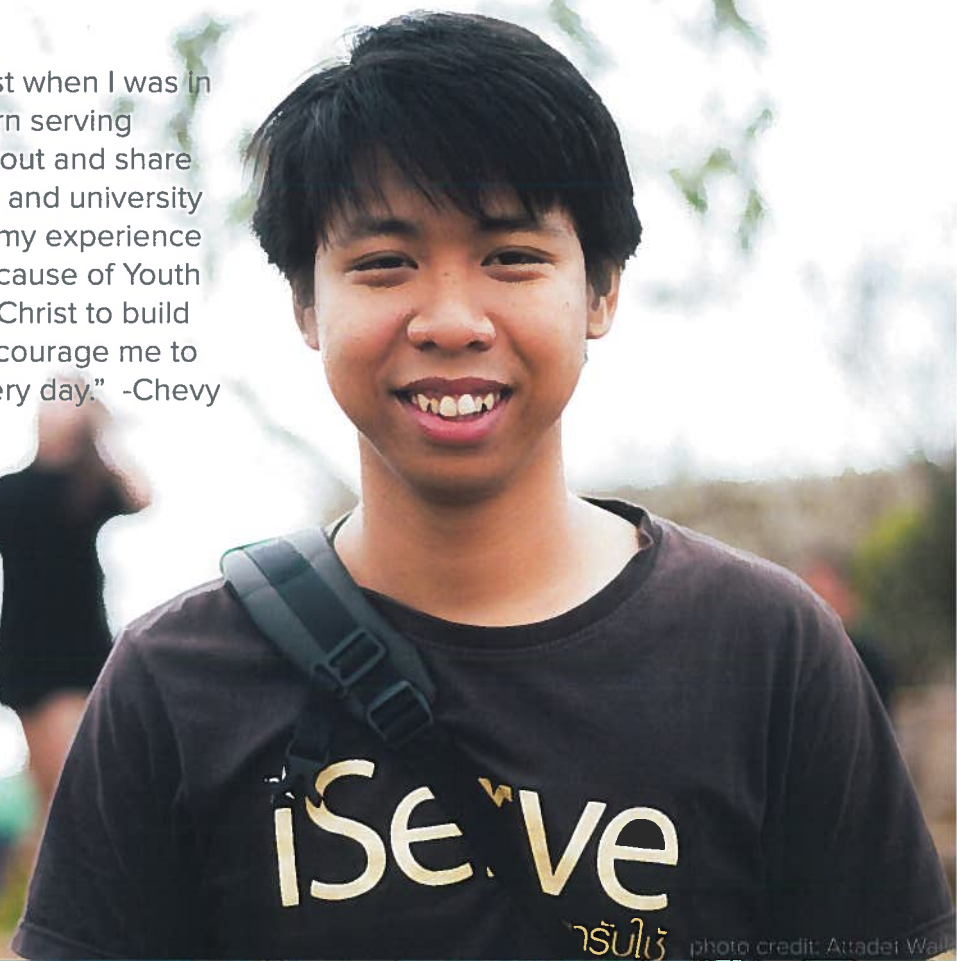


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