



“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”- 1 Timothy 4:8

“Run in such a way as to get the prize” (1 Corinthians 9:24)

The final session before Christmas break proved to be yet another awesome occasion, as we concluded our time together with a fiercely contested “in-house” tournament. This has become an eagerly awaited tradition at HCYA Hurricanes, and as always, we were not disappointed by the competitiveness yet friendly camaraderie amongst the group (not to mention the “creative” team names chosen by Captains!) It was especially meaningful for Hurricanes players to support “one of their own” – Ben Taylor with well wishes, cheers waves and prayers, all captured on video to help put a smile on Ben’s face! We love you “BT” and can’t wait to have you back on the field with us!

DEVOTIONAL THEME: FINISH STRONG – The Christmas truce

The horrific World War I of 1914-1918 claimed over 15 million lives, yet on Christmas Day, 1914, a Christmas Truce was made between warring soldiers – a truce which involved soccer! Said one commentator, *“For a brief moment, soccer provided a ritual of commonality, a reminder to the British and Germans that what they shared was more important than what divided them. It was fitting that it should be so, since soccer was the common man’s game, a shared culture every nation could understand. By spontaneously playing soccer on Christmas Day, these men gave notice that something precious, noble and decent still survived amidst the carnage. At that moment, they were neither British nor Germans, but lovers of a game.”* The Christmas Truce of 1914 was a welcome reprieve from the sordid narrative of World War 1. But it was short lived, temporary and could not be sustained.



In the Gospel of John, we read the final words of Jesus as He hung on the cross “It is finished.” (John 20:30). This was not a temporary fix or a minor interruption. This was God’s final and defining act of grace toward the world. It is finished: the death of Christ paid in full the sin debt of mankind. It is finished: No more need for animal sacrifices to atone for sin. Jesus was the perfect substitute – “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). It is finished: The sting of death is not the final curtain. We are no longer a slave to the fear of our departure from this world into the next. After all, the Christian knows that the best is yet to come! It is finished: The hundreds of prophecies about Christ’s birth, life, and death had been fulfilled. It is finished: Not “I” am finished! Jesus died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, but His life was anything but finished! We know from Scripture that He rose from the grave, and that He promises life abundant and life eternal to all who would come to Him by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)



Jesus Christ finished what He came into the world to do. He completed His Father’s assignment of bringing salvation to all who would believe on His name. His death was not a truce or a time out, and for sure, it was not defeat at the hands of the prince of this world – the devil. The crucifixion of Christ and His subsequent resurrection was His crowning glory. It is finished. The battle has been won. Jesus is the Victor. No truce needed. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year!
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Sports Quest:
“Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage next generation leaders through soccer”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13