

## **The Vision and Strategy for Building a Successful Sports Ministry**

The Vision and Strategy for building a successful Sports Ministry begins with the vision and strategy of your church and its ability to recognize the sports world's needs in the community around it. Many churches in Europe have viewed sport as a deterrent to one's involvement in the local church and a hinder to spiritual growth, instead of seeing sport as a missions tool, as one of our world's universal languages, and as an integral part of our world's culture of which we can influence for Jesus through sports missions. What are our strategies to creatively reach the sports community with the Gospel? How do we connect those we reach to our church, to Christ, and to one another? How do we help athletes develop in their sport while helping them grow deeper in their faith and be ambassadors for Christ in the sports world? How can we build bridges from our church to the sports community and positively influence our culture around us through sports missions? These are just some of the things we will be discussing, and questions we will be answering at this seminar. Welcome!

**Dave Jamerson** is a former professional basketball player who was selected by the Miami Heat in the 1st round of the 1990 NBA Draft. After a record breaking collegiate career, Jamerson played for the Houston Rockets, Utah Jazz and New Jersey Nets in his 3 NBA seasons, becoming a Christian after his first season. Dave is now the Senior Outreach Pastor of the 4,500 member Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Traders Point has been ranked as one of America's 100 fastest growing churches the past three years by Outreach magazine. Dave's primary responsibility is to create a comprehensive outreach strategy where every member is inspired and equipped to become an evangelist in their sphere of influence and for TPCC to be an effective mission-centered church both locally and globally. Dave became a Christian while playing in the NBA, and therefore, brings a unique perspective to outreach and how to strategically connect the Gospel to culture. Prior to coming on staff at TPCC, Dave served as the President and International Director of Champions for Christ, was the founder and President of Champions Academy--a world-class basketball training academy that uses sport to reach and influence the next generation of basketball leaders, and served on the NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) ministry team in charge of all outreach activities at the NCAA Final Four and Convention. Dave has helped to plant churches and lead ministry in over 30 countries and resides with his wife of 20 years, April, and their 4 children in Zionsville, Indiana.

**Paul Kobylarz** currently works as the Sports Pastor of one of America's fastest growing churches, Traders Point Christian Church, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Approximately 1000 people from within and outside of the church are being ministered to on a weekly basis through TPCC's sports ministry under Paul's leadership. Paul has extensive experience teaching about sports ministry, which includes planting, consulting and developing sports ministries internationally, and is regarded as one of the world's most experienced in this field. Paul has worked as a missionary and Sports Pastor in Sweden for 20 years, where using his platform as a professional hockey player and his pastoral/evangelist position in a local church to build Sweden's first church based sports ministry which "broke the ice" for sports ministry throughout all of Sweden. Together with the local church body of Sweden, Paul also built Sweden's first nationally church based interdenominational sports ministry called Sport for Life which became nationally acclaimed. During those years, Paul has consulted hundreds of churches and taught sports ministry at sports ministry conferences around the world. Paul has also worked as a Sports Chaplain at 6 Olympics (two of which he was Lead Chaplain), and over 30 major sporting events. Come and join us as Paul teaches how to build a sports ministry through the local church, and from the local church to the surrounding community, while sharing his unique experiences of life change he's seen through the people God's reached along the way.

1. Introduction – Dave Jamerson
  - a. Sports ministry – a key to shaping culture
  - b. Sport as a platform
    - a. A universal language
2. European Sports Ministry picture – Paul Kobylarz
  - a. Current state of Christianity and the declining church in Europe
  - b. The church's mindset towards Sports Ministry
  - c. Sport ministry – an ingredient for renewal
    - a. Sports world - unreached missions field

b. Sports Ministry is Biblical

c. Sports Ministry is Strategic

d. Sports Ministry is Necessary

e. Sports Ministry is Possible

3. A European Model - Skillingaryd, Sweden

a. Planting Sweden's first church based sports ministry - according to Nehemiah

- b. Sweden's first national church based sports ministry - Sport For Life
  
- 4. An American Model – Traders Point Christian Church Sports Ministry - A tool to accomplish evangelism and discipleship
  - a. Church Vision: Engaging people with the love of God, Inspiring them to follow Jesus, and Equipping them to serve our world
  
  - b. Sports Ministry Vision – Transform our community through faith and sports one person at a time.
  
  - c. Sports Ministry Mission – Connect people to Christ, develop them holistically in mind, body, and spirit, and engage the sports community with the message of Jesus, using sports as the tool for that engagement.
  
  - d. Strategic priorities
    - 1. Engaging the unbelieving

2. Connecting people to smaller groups

3. Giving a deeper knowledge of Christ

4. Equipping people for ministry

5. Releasing people to serve others

b. Sports Ministry Diagram

1. Target Groups

2. Presenting Christ THROUGH sport

3. Presence of Christ IN sport

c. Integrating strategic priorities within the Target Groups

d. Training Volunteers and Leaders

## 5. Conclusion