



AGAM FOOTBALL TEAM WINS A TROPHY

1. Introduction

Amazing Grace AIDS Ministry (AGAM) in an effort to mitigate the HIV spread established a football and a Netball teams. The rationale was to keep the youths busy with sporting activities while at the same time distracting them from engaging in malpractices that can increase the risks of the youths contracting the HIV. The teams have also been helpful in attracting people to attend awareness campaigns organized by AGAM. Prior to matches, there are talks about different topics. As such, AGAM is able to reach out to many people than it could normally do.

2. Competition

AGAM football as well as netball teams entered into a competition organized by some local prominent leaders. But the women side did not do very well and were eliminated from the competition at an early stage. The men's side continued and ended up winning the trophy. Bravo to them!!!



3. Benefits from the competition

AGAM football has always been a powerful tool of publicizing what the ministry is doing. It is an arm of the ministry that attracts many people at one goal. AGAM is known far and wide because of the contributions made by the football team. The regular training sessions conducted by the team kept them busy and were distracted from malpractices thereby reducing the prevalent rate. The spread of the HIV higher among the youths so engaging them or having activities that focus on them would help to deal with the HIV pandemic. The competition has also helped our youths to interact with others and through such interaction they are able to refocus on their lives. The win has also motivated them to work even harder. I believe that making sports as a big part of the ministry will adequately publicize AGAM ministry across the country.



4. Road map

AGAM local board and management team are of the view that the teams: both male and female side need to be encouraged and supported. We need to build teams that can compete at a higher level. Perhaps many of our players who are school-drop-outs can eventually take football and netball as their career. If we get to this level, our relevance to the community will be improved greatly, and we can be jovial for changing somebody's life.

5. Vote of thanks

The management team, working with the grassroots people, are very grateful to AGAM board-USA and the local board for supporting our activities and vision about AGAM. The potential that we see in our youth, if properly captivated, can make them self-reliant and productive citizens of Malawi. Hopeless youth turning into hopeful and more responsible ones; this is our goal for the youth!

Reported by: **Rev. Andrew Sumani**