



**NEWSLETTER – December 2020**



# Christmas Greetings from Beersheba FC

"Merry Christmas!

To the FFL family across the world, it's a pleasure to greet you all, especially in this challenging time of Covid-19.

It is a shame that some of us are celebrating this Christmas in quarantine. Some are socially distancing, and others have lost dear ones or employment, but wherever possible sing songs of joy, watch funny Christmas movies, make jokes, eat, drink and allow the Christmas spirit to bring peace, hope, and love to you and your family.

Here we are pressing on, and hope to have the happiest socially distanced Christmas. We wish the same for the FFL family and especially our friends in the UK, India and Mozambique, who are still experiencing the impact of Covid-19.

Let your friends and family know that they are worth your smile and best wishes. At Beersheba Football Club here in Uganda, our boys are still strong, happy, and healthy after returning from lockdown. They are gladly walking into this Christmas season in a jolly mood and with a positive spirit.

To our ONE BIG Football for Life family across the globe, may this Christmas bring you closer to your dear ones and bring you the most remarkable memories for the future.

Best wishes and love from Beersheba Football Club, Uganda."

**Fred, FFL Uganda Coordinator**



"I want to take this opportunity to wish all our football for life friends across the world a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

I'm a Muslim but have so many Christian friends in Beersheba Football Club and in the community. I have stayed and worked with so many Christian friends who are good to me, and it makes me comfortable and happy to celebrate Christmas with them, as they also respect and value my religion. It's all about love for one another not the differences in religion, status, or background.

In this season we show love for one another, making each other happy, making evaluations and re-aligning plans for the new year. We take this time to meet as family and friends to celebrate life and encourage each other. Christmas Day is also my birthday which makes it more precious for me and my family.

I know we have gone through a lot of hard time especially during this Covid-19 pandemic, however, if we are still alive then we have the reason to thank God and celebrate with a good cause."

**Musa, U14s Coach and Senior team player, Beersheba FC.**



Christmas Day is a special day for us as a family to gather and enjoy good moments. Here in Uganda, we go to Church for prayer and thanksgiving to God; we thank God for blessing us with many things over the year. We share positive feelings and experiences which helps us to unite and love one another.

Fellow players and Coaches across the global Football for Life family, I pray that God keeps you safe and you find it meaningful to celebrate Christmas with your families and friends.

**John, U16s, Beersheba FC**





“Since March 2020 I've not been allowed to go out and my school has been closed because of Coronavirus. I have missed my football practice at Oasis as activities were put on hold and I cannot spend time with my friends like I use to before.

During the lockdown it was very difficult to stay at home and not be able to go to school and play with my friends. Every evening in my village, all the elders sit together and talk about different things, and all the children come together to play, and take care of our cattle, but the lockdown has changed everything. We are restricted in visiting our friends, and even our neighbours and relatives. These days there is no fun during any of the festivals in my village as everyone is afraid of getting Coronavirus.

I used to enjoy football practice at the Oasis hub as there was no girls' team before. We used to practice from Monday to Friday, two hours each day, and I could learn so many football skills. I enjoyed warm up sessions, competitions with my teammates, evening snacks and learning through videos. These days I do warm up exercises at home and also help my parents in household work. I hope we soon have our regular activities like before.”

**Durga, Muthukur Football for Life, India**



“I feel good when playing with my peers in the Beersheba FC Under 16s. In this team we are of almost the same age and we appreciate the fact that we are all part of the same community. We feel more of a family because we enjoy learning things together and working as a team.

Beersheba FC has given us an opportunity to associate with our friends and I learn a lot of good skills from my friends who are better than me in some areas. I know that some people have different abilities and skills to me, and therefore learning from others helps me to improve.

Our coaches are helping us to learn lots of useful social skills like teamwork, respect for others, and good conduct in the football club and community. These are important social and life skills which I can use while working with other people.

My football skills have improved since I joined Beersheba FC, especially my shooting and passing skills. I am still struggling in some areas, but I know with the commitment I have towards learning, I will improve with the help of my coaches.”



**Levis, Under 16s, Beersheba FC**





# From the Coaches...



"I am privileged at my age to be leading a group of youth in this football club. I'm just a young man who is ambitious to develop as a responsible leader in my community, but it would be very difficult for me to do this if it were not for Beersheba Football Club.

BFC has its uniqueness in giving young people the opportunity to find their hidden potential through football. The players I coach are the same age as me and we play together in the senior team, but this does not stop me guiding, supporting, and helping them in many aspects of life. I have confidence and belief in myself because my coaches prepared me very well for leadership as a team captain at an early age. I feel blessed each time I get an opportunity to support and help my fellow youth do the right things in the community.

My community is proud of me just because of Beersheba Football Club which has prepared me morally with great responsibilities. Because of the exposure with Beersheba, my former secondary school hired me earlier this year to coach and lead their school football team in the Coca Cola post primary football competition, in which we were performing very well before Covid-19. However, I am confident that when schools open and school games and sports resume, the school will call me back to coach and lead their school football team again.

I know that development and transformation is a gradual process, so I try to be patient with some boys whose character is not so good, as I know that they are in the process of improving. I'm not worried of the way other people behave because I know everybody goes through a process of change and transformation in many areas of life."

**Coach Ramanzan, Beersheba FC Senior Team, Uganda.**



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