

Blackville Church Reaching the Community through Soccer



Overview

Members from Blackville First Baptist realized there were no soccer teams in their small town.

They saw it not just as a void in recreational activities but as a missed opportunity for community engagement. Blackville, SC, a rural town with about 2,000 residents, sits around 40 minutes outside of Aiken.

Bringing a Soccer Camp to the Community

"We recognized a segment of our population that we're not impacting," Ken Frederick, Pastor of Blackville First Baptist, said. Seeing the potential of soccer to unite families and bridge cultural divides, Frederick reached out to the Columbia International University (CIU) Men's Soccer team about coming to lead a soccer camp for children. Their partnership created excitement and credibility as the university's diverse soccer team came to Blackville for a weekend camp.

"We got to advertise that we had the national champion soccer team in town," Frederick said. Student-athletes from 14 different countries not only taught soccer skills but also shared their faith with the attendees.

Planting Seeds

Beyond providing an outlet for children, Frederick wanted to try to engage families with the soccer camp. At the conclusion of the weekend, the church hosted a cookout for the attendees and their families.

For Frederick, this was just the beginning of their mission to reach the unreached and serve the underserved. "My desire has been to see us as a church help our community. Soccer was an opening for us to do that," Frederick said.

Read the full story.

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