

*More Than Gold...*



**WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA**

World Cup is the greatest sporting event in the world, bringing together the world's finest athletes every four years. Two of the best are United States goal keeper Tim Howard and Brazil's Kaká. Besides their great skill, each has one very important thing in common.

## Tim Howard's Story

As a 10-year-old kid growing up in New Jersey, Tim learned he had Tourette's Syndrome, a brain disorder characterized by physical and verbal ticks. Many are scarred forever with this problem, but Tim overcame it to become the first American to win the FA Cup with Manchester United. A goalie on the United States World Cup team, he attributes his faith in God for helping him overcome Tourette's. According to Tim, *"Living with Tourette's is not easy. But God has blessed me with the gift of athleticism as well."*

## Keeping It Real

Tim is a real person who like all of us struggles in life, but he also believes life has a purpose beyond sports. He tells it in his own words:

*"I want to be known as somebody who tried to live for Christ. Who didn't always get it right, who makes mistakes and who stumbled, but at the end of the day believed and had faith that God is the beginning and the end. To me, that's important because people are going to see your stumbles and people see your triumphs. I want people to know I tried everyday to live for Christ. If I can just be a beacon of light and people see Christ, that would be most important"*

## Kaká's Story

Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite, known simply as Kaká (due to his brother's mispronouncing his name as a child), is an attacking midfielder with Brazil's World Cup team.

At 18, he was nearly paralyzed after falling from a poolside diving board. Doctors initially said he may never play again, but play he did. He became a World Cup champion, and FIFA World Player of the Year in 2007. But Kaká's life is more than sports.

During a TV campaign in Brazil, Kaká spoke to millions about his faith in Jesus Christ:

*"I truly can't imagine my life without Christ. Everything I have accomplished, everything I have done in my life, was because God had a plan and a purpose for my life. I have been named the best soccer player in the world. This, for me, was a great honor. But the greatest honor is serving Jesus Christ, because He gives me hope."*

### **Kaká's Moment**

The moment was the World Cup Championships. His team, AC Milan, had just won. While the stadium roared and the players piled on each other, one lone

figure stood out. His jersey off and his face and hands lifted toward heaven. His eyes were closed and his lips were moving. The words blazened across his undershirt for the entire world to see...

**I  
BELONG  
TO  
JESUS**

## Who Do You Belong To?

It's true for all of us. Who do we serve? Who do we belong to? Kaká has chosen Jesus Christ. But how?

Jesus lived 2000 years ago. Nobody disputes this fact. During His life, He made some incredible claims such as:

**"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

John 14:5-7

**“I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.”** John 10:10

**“I am the resurrection and the life.”** John 11:25

Jesus was crucified, but on the third day, as He predicted, He resurrected. Christianity as we know it would never have happened if He had not. His disciples and followers would have been discouraged and all gone home. But the testimony of hundreds was that they saw Him alive. These same discouraged disciples became powerful witnesses to a resurrected Jesus. In fact, He is still alive today and wants you to believe and trust in him.

**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”**

Revelation 3:20

If you have never asked Christ to come into your life, it comes down to simply admitting your sins (you've done wrong and need help) and believing that Christ died for

your sins and can forgive you. If you truly desire to follow Him, start by praying something like this:

*“Dear Lord,*

*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, that He died for my sins, and that He rose from the grave.*

*Lord, I surrender my life to You. Jesus, come into my heart and make me a new person. **I belong to you.***

*In Your name I pray,*

*Amen”*

If you prayed this prayer, it is critical that you find a church that believes in the Bible as the inspired Word of God and teaches that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.



*Brazil Midfielder  
KAKÁ*



*U.S. Goalie  
TIM HOWARD*