

'AMBITION IS KEY TO SUCCESS'

G4S 4teen members confirm the wisdom of their famous mentor

HAILE GEBRSELASSIE IS not only a world-famous athlete but also a successful businessman who believes in using his knowledge and skills to help others, which is why he agreed to be ambassador and mentor for the G4S 4teen programme.

The *Financial Times* interviewed him early in 2011 to learn more about what inspires his athletic and other achievements and the *Daily Telegraph Magazine* carried an in-depth interview, "Born to Run" (17 March).

Asked by the *Financial Times* whether ambition or talent is more important to success, he answered: "Many talented people don't make it to the top because they don't have ambition. Discipline is very important, but discipline comes out of ambition."

In response to the question, "What drives you on?", the double Olympic gold medal winner and current world marathon record holder responded: "My joy of life and running, and my desire to discover new boundaries. I also enjoy being in a position where I can help other people achieve their dreams, which I am trying to do with the G4S 4teen athletes. Seeing them succeed gives me immense joy."

As the mentor of G4S's 14 young athletes from around the world who are focused on becoming champions, Haile has good reason to be joyful. Some are already making a big impression and are benefitting from time spent with Haile and at training camps with fellow G4S 4teen members.

The team includes two boxers, Charly Suarez (Philippines) and Chatchai Butdee (Thailand), who were thrilled to be given the opportunity to visit Haile in his home town of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2010, and train with him in the foothills of Mount Entoto – an event recorded by a UK journalist and 3D film crew.

Haile also took the young boxers to St Mary's Church where his Olympic gold medals are proudly displayed.





Among the other G4S 4teen athletes who have been in the spotlight in recent months are long distance runner Pauline Korikiwang, BMX rider Mariana Pajón and sprinter Obinna Metu.

International photographer Robin Hammond travelled to Kenya to spend two days with Pauline, following her daily routine and capturing the beauty of her home country. Among her recent successes was another first-place finish, this time in the Amorebieta Cross Country Championship in Spain, on 20 January.

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Meanwhile, Mariana Pajón, the most accomplished female cyclist in Colombian history having won 13 world championships by the age of 19, has added another victory to the long list. Competing in the Latin American BMX championship in Brazil in February, she won races on successive days.

For Nigeria's Obinna Metu, the undoubted highlight has been a visit to Jamaica during which he experienced almost two months of training with coach Glen Mills, including sessions with world and Olympic champion Usain Bolt – the fastest man in the world – who is trained by Mills. ■

ABOVE: Pauline Korikiwang's training run impresses local spectators.

FAR LEFT: Boxers Chatchai Butdee (left) and Charly Suarez display Haile's Olympic gold medals.

LEFT: Obinna Metu is back from training with the world's fastest man.

