



# GROUP C

## FRANCE



Didier Deschamps helped France win its only World Cup title in 1998 as a player and captain of the team. He's now the head coach.

## PERU



Peru won a two-leg playoff over New Zealand to secure the last spot in the World Cup, the nation's first appearance since 1982. It is led by winger Jefferson Farfan.

## DENMARK



Midfielder Christian Eriksen scored 11 goals in World Cup qualifying, including a hat trick against Ireland that booked Denmark's spot in the World Cup.

## AUSTRALIA



Tim Cahill is looking to become one of the few players to score a goal in four World Cups. He's also second in World Cup history with five cards.

# ALBERTO RODRIGUEZ

# BANNER FOR CHRIST

Alberto Rodriguez has made more than 70 international appearances as a defender for the Peruvian national football team. In many of those matches, he was the team captain. He has also played more than 15 years for professional teams in Peru, Portugal and Colombia.

However, having a successful football career is not what Rodriguez wants people to know most about him.

"As a follower of Christ, this platform makes people see not just the football player, but a person that God has made and put in this position," Rodriguez says. "This is what God wants. The Bible says we are an open book; the world looks at what we do. I want to be a good reference, a model for young people and adults to follow, not just an athlete, but a person who follows Christ."



Rodriguez became a follower of Christ when he was around 18 years old through a friend he played football with. His friend invited him to church, Rodriguez liked it and continued to go. Before long, he had a personal encounter with God, who transformed Rodriguez's life and also that of his girlfriend, who is now his wife and mother of their three children.

"I know without God I can't do anything. We are nothing without Him. Today as a national football player, [that] has all happened with God's help. When Christ came into my life it was a very, very beautiful, important and amazing moment," Rodriguez says.

Being a follower of Christ in the world of professional sports isn't always easy. Rodriguez has experienced that, but knows God is for him.

"There is always adversity in all areas of our lives; as a football player there are adversities in training, in the games," he says. "Things don't always turn out good. As a professional football player, and a follower of Christ, my banner is Christ. I realize that the Lord is always fighting for me, guarding me, strengthening me, even in complicated situations."

But being a follower of Christ in the world of professional sports allows Rodriguez to reach people he might not otherwise.

"We are an instrument in the hands of God to be able to share the Good News, His Word. This is a motivation. If He has put me in this position as a professional football player, it is to be light in the middle of darkness. This is an opportunity God has given me," Rodriguez says.

As he leads his Peruvian teammates on the field and around the world, Rodriguez strives to make clear who he stands for.

"I always want to be better. I want to leave a legacy, an example for the youth that come behind me, so football in Peru continues to develop and grow," he says. "It is important that the motivation I have is transmitted to others, so they can see not just me Alberto Rodriguez, who I am and what is inside Alberto Rodriguez. But that when they see me, they see God. They see a reflection of what God is doing in my life. This is the biggest joy for any follower of Christ."

# WORLD CUP

