

BUILDING BRIDGES a What I love about the World Cup is it provides a chance for millions of people to learn about other countries and cultures. People learn about the countries of the teams they support and about their opponents' history, culture, and even some new phrases in a foreign language. This year's World Cup coincides with Ramadan, which is the month when Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset. Some players from Algeria, Nigeria, Germany, Belgium, and France were fasting during their matches. Thanks to these Muslim players, millions of people learned about the diversity of these countries and about the religious tenet of fasting. Soccer is a game that not only gives people the chance to learn about each other but also has the potential to unite people. Sports can be a dividing force, but the true spirit of sports is about unity, fun, and innovation. The matches at this World Cup have been exactly that so far, and I hope it remains so, because millions of children all over the world are watching these games and being inspired by what happens here in Brazil. It is amazing to me that the final game of this year's World Cup is between Argentina and Germany, a repeat of the first two World Cups I watched as a child!