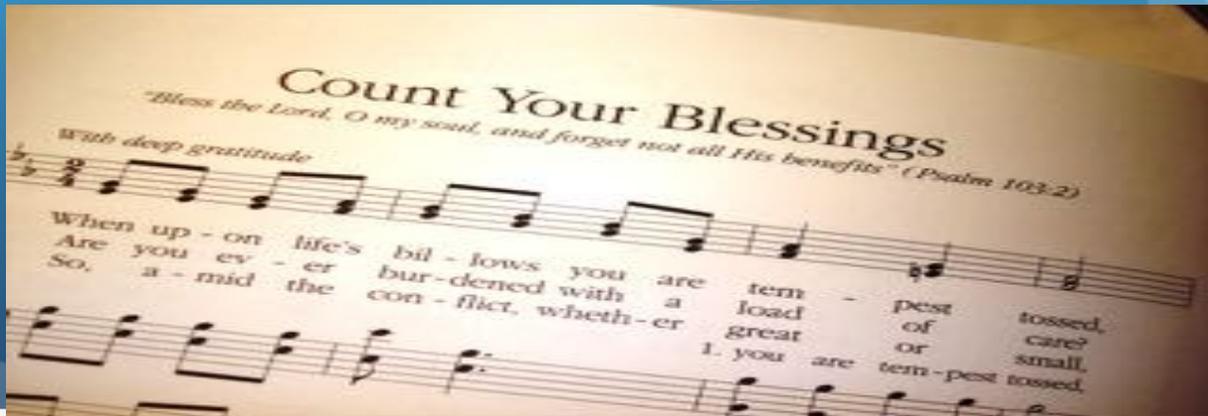


NEWS BRIEF

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY

JANUARY 2018



“Count your blessings, name them one by one”

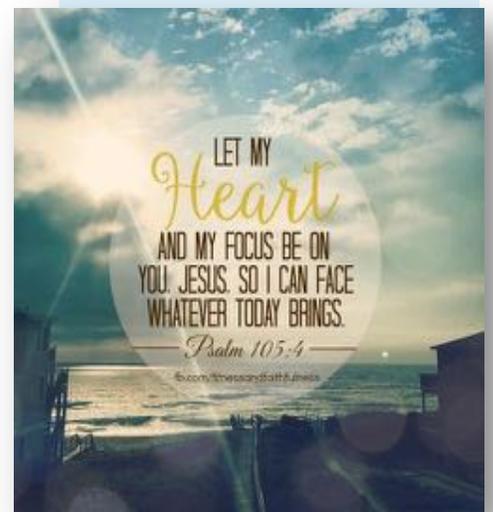
Perhaps a number of you have sung the song “*Count your blessings*” at one time or another. One of the verses in this song written in the 1800s by Johnson Oatman, Jr. goes like this: “*Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear!*”

I suspect many of you could easily shout back, “yes! The burden is too much, the cross too heavy to bear!”

As our chaotic world beckons us to do more, move faster and then when you are sure you can't do one more thing, storm clouds arrive and shower you with additional forms of anxiety and other depressing news.

If this or something similar is overtaking you and is threatening to totally overwhelm you it is time to retreat, take a deep breath, and post a sign on your door for all to see, “On a break, be back later.” Then open the windows of heaven and allow this refreshing, unpolluted air to renew your spirit, refuel your strength and bring comfort in the knowledge God is in control, cares for you and loves you more than you could possibly imagine.

As you turn off all of the electronic devices that bark at you, take a moment to count your blessings and close your eyes allowing the Lord to fill your mind and heart with that special nourishment that only spiritual food can provide.



Continued on next page...



At this point, GSSM would like to add to your blessings by thanking you for being such an important part of our team as we equip our students to wade into the swamps of darkness armed with nothing more than the light and love that only **Jesus** can provide.

Then the thrilling part!

As the light penetrates this curtain of gloom and hopelessness something beautiful happens to those in bondage. The chains that once held them captive mysteriously falls off and the embrace of the Savior frees them as their hearts are filled with joy and thanksgiving.

Meanwhile their names have been etched in the Lamb's Book of Life and all of eternity with the King of Kings and Lord and Lords is awaiting them.

And guess what? Your prayers and involvement with GSSM has made all of this possible.

As we wrap up this news-brief, let me count out a few more blessings that have been a part of your love and concern for others.

✓ CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Early reports from Uganda indicate that hundreds took part in GSSM's special program held in Mbarara and in one of the forgotten villages nearby.

Scores of people responded to the Gospel as the real meaning of Christmas was shared. Joy replaced sadness for many who had given up hope. ***A number of GSSM students and graduates participated in this major event and were rewarded with smiles, laughter & excitement as the key to heaven's door was provided to each one who invited Christ into their lives.***



✓ GSSM Graduates in Uganda

They report that newly planted churches in the north of Uganda are taking root and touching numerous lives.



✓ Liberian Pastor & GSSM Graduate Wellington Morris

He reports the accelerated training program is working well and is taking root in an important seminary in Monrovia, the capital. Hand-picked leaders are also being trained and will go out to each region of the country to establish sports ministry programs in the local churches as well as to train additional leaders to lead other training sessions.



✓ A pair of Malawi's Pastors & Graduates of GSSM

Initiated contact with a number of church leaders in addition to other committed believers in Zambia. Tanzania & Botswana. Students from these countries are now enrolled in GSSM's training program and are in the process of establishing programs of their own.



✓ The Ebenezer Team in Uganda

The team is made up of 4 GSSM graduates, have announced plans to travel to every city, town and village in Uganda to share the Gospel, plant churches & establish sports ministry programs. They are also a model team that will teach other graduates how they can work together and support each others ministries. This is really exciting as these men become missionaries to their own country and even beyond. Barnabas Mwesiga, our African director, oversees this group.





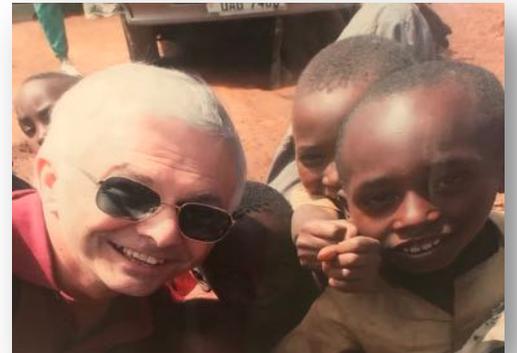
✓ Barnabas Mwesiga’s “Dream”

Is taking shape as he works hard on developing different ways to help our graduates become self-sufficient. By using farming projects to bring in the necessary funds to provide for the needs of the growing number of sports ministry missionaries, it is Barnabas’ prayer that many will be helped and enable them to pursue their commitment to carry the Good News into the vast harvest fields of our world.

Although one project was hit by a severe drought, Barnabas’ is undeterred and continues to be optimistic. This dear leader epitomizes one of our principles, **“Never, never, never give up”!**

BREAKING NEWS...

Just as we were putting on the final touches to our January News-Brief; a call came from Jay Cudworth, son of **Don Cudworth**, GSSM’s Director of Finance and a member of our leadership team. Jay called to inform us that his father had suddenly passed away from an apparent heart attack. We will have more on Don in our next news-brief. **Please pray for the Cudworth family during this difficult time.**



With this we will close for now and thank you once again for standing with us as we work together to **“go & make disciples”**.

Thanks for caring. Thanks for praying and remember, **you are making a difference!** So go ahead and “count your blessings and name them one by one”....and enjoy your quiet time with the Lord.

With sincere gratitude,

Russ Carr, President & **Alyssa Carr Mahone**, Executive Director