

# News Brief

JUNE/JULY 2018



What **sporting event** will be watched by **nearly ½ of the world's population** during June & July?

If you answered the **World Cup of Soccer**, you are absolutely right. Unfortunately the U.S. failed to qualify for this once every 4 years event and thus the interest in the U.S.A. will be somewhat diminished. However, in other parts of the world the interest will soar bordering on the insane.

**So what does this month-long tournament have to do with GSSM? The correct answer would be....plenty!!**

In *chapter 9* of the GSSM textbook an entire section is devoted to using the themes of major sporting events for evangelistic purposes. "*IN THE NET*", for example, is a segment filled with a variety of programs and outreaches utilizing the interest generated by the World Cup of Soccer. They range from the simple to the slightly more complex activities. All have been tested and proven to be effective.

**Want an example?**

How about checking out the one that follows to get a little taste of what can happen...





During a previous World Cup of Soccer a very creative student of sports ministry in Uganda put together an incredible outreach when he was offered a satellite dish that he could put up at an abandoned private school yard which this person was using (with permission) as a training and outreach center.

### **One key event included the television showing of selected world cup matches projected on a large screen.**

Since most of the residents in that region of Uganda could not afford the cost of attending a video theatre, they jumped at the opportunity to come to the free showing at the school.

During one important game, 5,000 people poured through the main gate of the school and watched this exciting match. During halftime a video was shown to the crowd which featured some well-know international soccer players in action followed by some close-up shots of the players giving their testimony of how Christ changed their lives. Several hundred people responded to the Gospel and invited Christ into their hearts. Many of those who responded are now involved in some of the local churches.

### **During the 2018 World Cup,**

A number of our GSSM students and graduates will be holding tournaments of their own, showing videos, conducting clinics and hosting a variety of activities that hopefully will draw hundreds to these events where they will be treated to some wonderful programs and most importantly, will be exposed to the Good News that can change their lives for eternity.

### **WANT TO PARTICIPATE?**

You can be an important part of these outreaches by praying for these special events and for the students and graduates who will be conducting these programs. I can almost hear a thunderous applause from our African brothers and sisters as they learn of your prayers and support for them as they step out and share the love of Christ even in hostile environments.





# IN OTHER NEWS

- **BARNABAS MWESIGA**, our African Director, reported on GSSM's recent Easter Gala during which most of our Ugandan students and many of our graduates participated. It is during these “get your hands dirty” opportunities that our students find the information they read in the textbook suddenly jump off the pages and make practical sense.
  - **Barnabas' report stated:**
    1. 18 soccer teams participated
    2. Almost all GSSM students attended and assisted
    3. God provided a sunny Saturday in the midst of a rainy week (Thanks to answered prayers)
    4. The tournament was well-organized and some exciting soccer took place
    5. Assignments involving all GSSM students were well done and they handled their responsibilities quite well.
    6. A meal was served including some sodas and cake. The unexpected food was devoured by the participants who greatly appreciated this special treat.
    7. **The Gospel was delivered and 9 young people accepted Christ as their personal Savior.**
    8. Family gift/food packs were delivered to 20 very needy families by GSSM students and some of our graduates.
    9. **Seven people became followers of Christ as a result of the gift pack visits.**

## ➤ BASEBALL IN UGANDA

### With the help of good friend, Tom Roy

of Unlimited Potential ( a baseball ministry based in Indiana), Barnabas initiated baseball programs throughout Uganda. Starting in the late 1980's Barnabas was later appointed Baseball Commissioner of Uganda by the government and worked hard to establish "America's game" in East Africa. Basic to all the programs was the spiritual element. When Barnabas resigned after more than 15 years heading up the program, baseball in Uganda was entrusted to several who had worked with Barnabas. The Ugandan Little League team qualified and made it to the Little League World Series in Pennsylvania. Later the Women's Softball Little League team qualified for the Softball little League World Series in Oregon. Unfortunately some individuals from the states got involved and the spiritual element was dropped.



### Now Barnabas is meeting with a baseball group

that is trying hard to shift back to the foundation of putting Christ first in the game. Barnabas was able to give some equipment to distribute for their use...balls, bats and uniforms sent earlier by the Sportsbridge program established by Russ Carr and beautifully run by Les Forney who since has gone home to be with the Lord.

### SHIPMENT OF GOODS FROM USA

Barnabas recently hosted Terry McGill and his daughter, Ella, as they cleared a container load of goods that Terry's organization, Sister Schools, had gathered. Terry and his wife, Melissa, have been dear friends and partners with GSSM as they have included many GSSM items in their container without any charge. We are deeply indebted to the McGill's.

Terry was part of the very first group Russ took to Uganda in 1988, played in the first soccer crusade held in the national stadium in Uganda in 1989 and earlier (1979) was part of the soccer team coached by Russ Carr traveling throughout Africa playing national, professional and university teams on a good-will tour sponsored by the U.S. State Department and organized by Chris Appel of Adventures in Education, another dear friend.



## ➤ GSSM Graduates in Malawi, Tanzania & Zambia

Steve Burke, head soccer coach at Judson University and part of GSSM's leadership team just returned from a jam-packed trip to Africa where he administered oral and written exams, observed and evaluated sports ministry programs of those completing GSSM's course of study, met with a number of prospective students, greeted several of our graduates and awarded diplomas to those students completing all of GSSM's graduation requirements.



## ➤ Executive Director back from California: *Busy, Busy, Busy!*

Alyssa Carr Mahone and her 2 daughters, Kiaerah & Nadiah, just returned from California where they had a whirlwind of activities including GSSM's board meeting, speaking at two fundraising events sponsored by board members Bob Bryant & Rolland Jacks. "Chef Bob" and his wife, Patty, were incredible hosts as they opened their home for an evening of sharing about the ministry of GSSM. Dr. Jacks and his son-in-law, Ed Seaman along with Ed's wife, Shay, held an African evening at Rolland and Venetia Jacks ranch. A delicious African meal was served and support for Barnabas Mwesiga's sustainability project using farm products to assist sports ministry programs was shared.

Alyssa also spoke at a church, participated in a ministry fair, met with some GSSM donors, held a staff meeting and squeezed in a couple of fun activities with her girls.



**Finally, a big thank you to all of you who pray for GSSM and for those of you who are able to support our ministry as God would lead and enable. This is the Lord's work and we rely solely on Him to provide for our needs. Our desire is to "GO & MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS" as the Lord commanded us in Matthew 28.**

**Thank you for your willingness to partner with GSSM as together we enter the harvest fields of a world greatly in need of the Lord.**

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

