NEWS BRIEF

CHRISTMAS IN RUKUNGIRI...

WHERE?

I doubt if your GPS will help locate this village. Your Alexa probably won't have information either. However, it does exist. It's not the latest travel destination but just before Christmas you may wish you could have a peek at this forgotten village located some 40 kilometers off a main road in the hills of Southwest Uganda. That's when a small army of GSSM students, staff and graduates will arrive in the village armed with shovels, rakes, hoes, machetes and other tools. As they pour out of their vehicles they immediately spread out following a well-conceived plan as these navy-seal like invaders attack overgrown weeds, clear out clogged water and sewer ditches, repair homes of the sick and elderly and even revitalize the village soccer field with goal posts that need some serious attention.

As the villagers stand in awe they see their courageous pastor of their small church walking over to the lead vehicle and greeting one who appears to be the key leader of these invaders. Many are baffled. And then they see one of their own join the pastor with a smile a mile wide. It's Derrick Tukwasibwe, a young, devoted Christian who is a graduate of GSSM. He recently started a sports ministry program through his local church, Emmanuel Mission. Many of the children were excited to have some organized games, activities, soccer leagues and tournaments. Derrick was thrilled when Barnabas Mwesiga and his leadership team agreed to have this year's Christmas outreach in his forgotten village.

So Just What Does all of this Mean?

It means community service and a Christmas celebration that the villagers have never experienced before. It means games and activities, story times, soccer matches, visits to the sick and elderly, Family Food Packs delivered to the poorest of the poor and Kids Kits for children who have nothing but rags to wear or nothing at all. Finally, it means a huge celebration of Christmas as the GSSM team in collaboration with the women from the church prepare an incredible dinner for the entire village...which could number in the hundreds. The dinner even includes a birthday cake to honor the Christ child.

Most important of All...

The incredible story will be told of God's Son coming to the earth to redeem all who would believe in Him and have their sins forgiven. Becoming a Christ follower would be the most important decision they would ever make in their entire life. And the thrilling part is that many will make this decision when given the opportunity and become true disciples of our Lord.

Who Will Disciple These New Believers?

As you probably guessed, Derrick and his pastor along with some other committed followers of our Lord who attend the village church will mentor the new believers. Just think, it all started when Derrick contacted GSSM via the internet and Russ asked Barnabas to meet this eager young man and enroll him in GSSM's training program. To put more icing on the cake, Derrick was recently thrilled that 3 students that he recommended from his village were recently accepted by GSSM and began their training in October.

Who should get the credit?

All Praise to the Lord for His Mercy, Grace, and Love... that has been extended to the people in a remote village in Africa and to all who would embrace Him. Can You Help? We will need lots of assistance to provide Family Food Packs, Kids Kits, a massive dinner and help for students traveling from as far away as Kenya, Tanzania and different parts of Uganda. The experience not only fulfills the student's practicum requirement for graduation but often becomes a key motivating factor in developing a variety of programs in their own region. Your prayerful consideration of assisting us with this important Christmas outreach is deeply appreciated. Read On For More Details

NOVEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS IN RUKUNGIRI

GSSM CHRISTMAS

GIVE JOY. BLESS A VILLAGE.

HE WILL BE A JOY AND DELIGHT TO YOU, AND MANY WILL REJOICE BECAUSE OF HIS BIRTH.

luke 1:14

Barnabas Mwesiga chose the Rukungiri community to serve this Christmas.

GSSM conduct sports clinics, activities, and soccer matches.

The GSSM team's goal is to serve and care for the community; this includes slashing weeds and cleaning drainage trenches in the streets.

The Christmas meal brings the entire community together.

Sharing the Christmas story and the Good News is one of the most valuable components of the entire week.

NOVEMBER 2018

WANT TO HELP?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THIS CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Pray — $0

The most important ingredient in any ministry.

Family Food Packs — $30

For the poorest of the poor. Contains enough food for a family for 3-5 weeks. Includes Christian literature and Gospel of John.

Christmas Dinner — $10

For all of the people in the village. Each person receives chicken or beef, rice, beans, gravy, fruit, chapattis (like a tortilla), soft drinks and a special Christmas cake. Everyone attending will be given a small gift.

Kid's Kits — $20

For children with the greatest needs: shoes ($5), clothes ($5), a toy or two ($4), sweets & candy ($2) Children's Bible Story book ($4).

Help for GSSM Students — $50

Much-needed assistance for GSSM students in order to meet their practicum requirement and gain valuable experience. Previous students have stated that this opportunity to be involved "was one of the most helpful elements of our training". Gift includes travel costs, food, lodging, and a GSSM shirt.

Thank you

...for your prayers and support of our annual Christmas outreach and training program. Please understand that any amount of help you can provide will be greatly appreciated and used to purchase a variety of items for those in great need. Also note that 100% of your gift goes to the project or program that you designate.

May the Lord shower you with His blessings as you offer that cup of cold water to those who crave the kind of love that only Christ can provide. We are so grateful for your assistance in making all of this possible.

Most Sincerely,

President — **Executive Director**

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