

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY

APRIL 2019

News Brief

“We are just His hands and feet”

When I think of this phrase I think of how privileged we are to be His hands and feet and that we are also just vessels to do His will; it is Him within us that truly moves the hearts of man. I saw this thought come to life as Aimee, Sequoi, and I were in Uganda observing our students and staff. We witnessed men and women joyfully ministering to others with passion and tenacity despite their circumstances. Because of this, being the “hands and feet” of Jesus, we saw people coming into the knowledge of a Savior.

Something I say often to our students is “because of your faithfulness, many will come to know Him. You are changing and will change nations for Christ.”

What a thought, right? As I looked around during our student meeting and saw all of these amazing individuals I also saw a willingness to do the work of the Lord that, in turn, is truly going to light this nation on fire for Christ. Since I am also interested in statistics I started thinking “Whoa, if one student reaches 100 people per month and replicates this each of the following months, we are talking revival status!” Just the thought of this makes my heart swell!

I think this quote by St. Teresa of Avila puts this whole “hands and feet” concept in perspective:

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours. No feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion for the world is to look out. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.”

I love that! Just like our students and graduates... who else but you! It starts with a stirring to love others and it continues with the action of going out and doing the work He calls you to do.



This whole trip I kept thinking, “God is doing so much with so little!”

Our GSSM students, graduates and our amazing Ugandan staff blew us away by how much they are doing for the Kingdom. It started with an idea of using this simple tool of sports and it has exploded into feeding programs, camps, discipleship and timothy programs - the list goes on. Each trip it gives me added encouragement to keep going and pressing forward. Being on the office side of this ministry you don't always see the fruit of your labor but for me, Aimee (GSSM's Director of Student Relations) and Sequoi (our Director of Communications) to see first-hand what God is doing was everything! And also for our students and staff it reminds them that they are loved, encouraged and supported by our GSSM team to keep pressing forward as well.



Here are some highlights from our trip: Meeting with our staff (Ebenezer Team & Barnabas Mwesiga)

- Last year when I met with the Ebenezer team and saw the start of building our Ugandan staff, I was so thrilled with the caliber of these individuals.
- This year, the level has exponentially risen! I now have gotten to know each member better and can see very clearly how Barnabas formed this team so strategically. Each one compliments the other in their strengths and weaknesses. **Let me introduce you to each member:**
- **David Lusuko** – The quiet but influential leader of the group. He is the one who pushes when necessary, supports when he is able and encourages always.
- **Patrick Muyengi** – He is the organizational administrator. He works directly with our Ugandan students and keeps them on task. He organizes the Ebenezer meetings, meetings for students, lesson distribution, “Whats App” GSSM student & graduate group chat - to name a few things.
- **Jimmy Kalyango** – Jimmy is the visionary. He sees a need and figures out a way to make it happen. He has a compassionate heart for children and their well being both physically and spiritually.
- **Isaac Lugya** – He is the evangelist and discipler. He is the youngest in the group but the most spiritually mature person I have ever met. I told him on our last visit that I truly believe he is the next Billy Graham. Scripture flows from him as though he was one of the Gospel writers. It is a natural way of speaking for him. He inspires so many and his greatest passion is discipleship which is very apparent.





As you can see in this brief synopsis of the Ebenezer team members each one brings unique gifts to the group that make up a pretty powerful team! I can't wait to share more in an upcoming newsletter about their individual stories as well as the ministries they are running. There is so much to unpack with these amazing men; it may take two or three newsletters! I am so glad that Barnabas saw in them the potential to continue what he and my dad began 30 years ago. He continues to mentor and train them just as I am being trained and mentored by my dad. I love that!

I also loved seeing the same passion for this ministry that I have; it sincerely touched my heart! I feel so confident in the team I am building to carry on the vision of sports ministry as a tool to share the Good News and make disciples.

Meeting with our current students and graduates

- This is always one of my highlights. To see the “fruit” of our labor in the field is so rewarding! I love hearing their stories and how God is using them to reach hundreds for Christ. I also enjoyed watching two of our US staff members, Aimee Blanks & Sequoi Phipps, meet the men and women they have been working for and with for so long. That was a special moment to step back and see.
- Something else I treasure in these meetings is pouring into these students. I get to hear their triumphs and struggles and pray over them or encourage them. My biggest goal is that I want them to feel supported and have ownership. This is their ministry to which God specifically called them. Something that sets our ministry apart from others is that my dad had the vision of nationals reaching nationals. It is so important because they know their culture and their people; who better to reach Uganda? I want to empower our students and graduates to keep pressing forward, listen to God's calling and be faithful in that. One thing I often share with them is that God is going to use them to light a nation on fire for Christ. Will you pray this with me? These alumni and students face so many hardships and circumstances beyond their control. Pray for perseverance despite what is happening around them. I can't begin to convey to you the caliber of students and graduates we have; they are beyond amazing and absolutely on fire for reaching the lost for Christ. So please go before them and pray God would use them in mighty ways for his Kingdom.



Sustainability Projects

- Another highlight for me was seeing Barnabas' farm and two of the Ebenezer's farms. One word....WOW!!! Their vision of self-sustaining their ministries and also helping other students and graduates with seed money is just mind blowing. I will expand on this front more in an upcoming newsletter which will be written by fellow GSSM team member and our Director of Communications, Sequoi Phipps. Stay tuned!

I asked Sequoi and Aimee to share their favorite moment from our trip....

The biggest highlight for me was hearing GSSM alumni, the Ebenezer team, and Barnabas talk about their dreams and goals. We were able to visit David's, Jimmy's, and Barnabas's farms and see how they're using farming to support their ministries. When we visited David's farm and saw his soccer ministry, I was so encouraged and excited for what the Lord is doing through him. He showed us where he is growing bananas, matoke, and coffee as well as his animal pens for his cow and pigs. As he walked us around, he explained to us what he has planned. He has spoken to the leaders of his village about starting a school, building a residence for teachers to stay on the school property, planting a church, and continuing to teach youth how to farm and raise livestock. The leadership of this community has not only approved his plans but is waiting in anticipation for all the growth these ideas will bring. Ultimately, what we were hearing in his words was his hope and expectation of God to move in his community. He dreams big, prays for provision, and goes as the Lord calls him to. David has such a trusting faith and is truly saying with every action "Here I am God, use me." - Sequoi

Here are photos of some of Aimee's highlights - beautiful children at Jimmy's and David's ministries and a group of siblings on their way to fetch water at the new well near Jimmy's land.





This Student Evaluation Trip to Uganda in February was encouraging, renewing, invigorating and honestly life-changing. I cannot put into words how God encouraged my heart to keep pressing forward. This course is impacting so many lives and enabling them with the tools to reach hundreds upon hundreds for Christ. I wanted to share one moment I had with a student during his verbal exam. His name is Julius. He is being mentored by one of our Ebenezer staff members and they do ministry alongside each other. I asked him how this course has impacted him or if there was anything we could improve upon. Without taking a moment he said... "No, not at all! This textbook is my constitution for ministry. It brings me to tears when I read it. It helps me keep going." Wow, right? Growing up and seeing the faithfulness and perseverance of my dad in his calling and watching him pray over the textbook - that it would in turn help thousands to reach their own people for Christ - Julius's comment left me in tears. Tears are flowing even now writing this! One thing I love hearing the Ugandans say is "God is good, all the time. All the time God is good." Isn't this so true? What an awesome God we serve!

In closing, I wanted to thank all of you and your faithfulness in prayer and in your generous giving. We are so grateful for your much needed help. You are an intricate part in these students' journeys and we are so appreciative!

Please join me in praying over the Ebenezer Team, Barnabas as he leads our Ugandan team and mentors our students, for our students and graduates as they go and make disciples of all nations, for our leadership and staff at GSSM that God would continue to direct each step we take, and lastly that God would use you to reach those in your own Judea!

IN HIM<><

Aluma Cauc Mahone
Executive Director



This young girl was on her way to the new nearby well to fetch water.

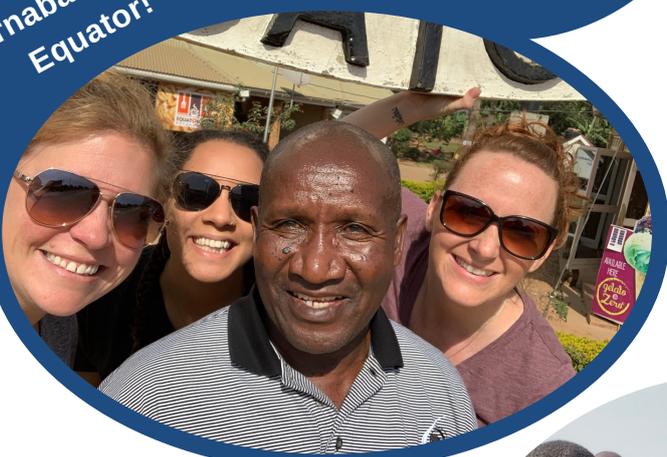


Some of the older children at Jimmy's ministry helping with serving food.



Athletes at Ivan's ministry at training.

The staff and Barnabas at the Equator!



Alumni, Gorette, visiting Ivan's ministry in Mbarara.

Athletes praying together after Ivan shared about the Gospel.

