

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY NEWS BRIEF

A SPOTLIGHT ON SUSTAINABILITY

JUNE 2019

This month, we wanted to share an update on the many sustainability projects happening with our GSSM alumni and staff. During our trip to Uganda in February, we were able to see the building projects and farms we've heard so much about. Alumni and staff also shared their dreams and goals to sustain their ministries and serve their communities.

A little over one year ago I started working for GSSM as the Director of Communications. I am very passionate about this topic and so I am excited to get to share all of this with you as my involvement in sustainability has increased at GSSM.



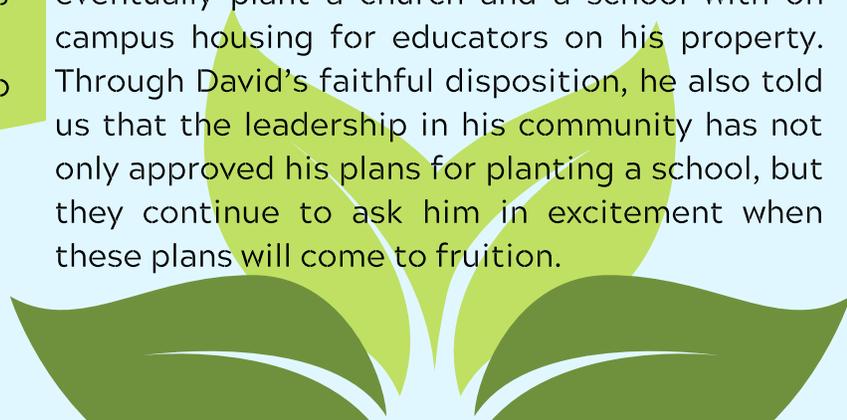
M A T O K E

...is a variety of starchy banana, commonly referred to as "cooking bananas." The fruit is harvested green and then cooked and often mashed into a meal.



DAVID LUSUKU

...is a graduate of GSSM and a member of the Ebenezer Team and a follower of Jesus who dreams big with the Lord. When we visited Uganda in February, we had the privilege of visiting his village and ministry and hearing about all of his plans for the near future. David walked us around the farmland where he has been raising livestock and growing matoke, bananas, and coffee. He shared with us that his dream is to use his farming to teach and empower the youth of his community, sustain the ministry programs he is already running, and eventually plant a church and a school with on campus housing for educators on his property. Through David's faithful disposition, he also told us that the leadership in his community has not only approved his plans for planting a school, but they continue to ask him in excitement when these plans will come to fruition.



THIS STORY DAVID SHARED WITH US SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT HIS HOPES FOR HIS MINISTRY:

David raises pigs and has two of his young athletes help him take care of the livestock on his farm. When the young men were ready, he gave each of them a piglet to raise for themselves and their families. A few months passed and the young men were doing well caring for their pigs, but one approached David with a concern. "My family doesn't have money for school fees." David told us that, after thinking for a moment, he said to the young man "what do you think you can do about it?"

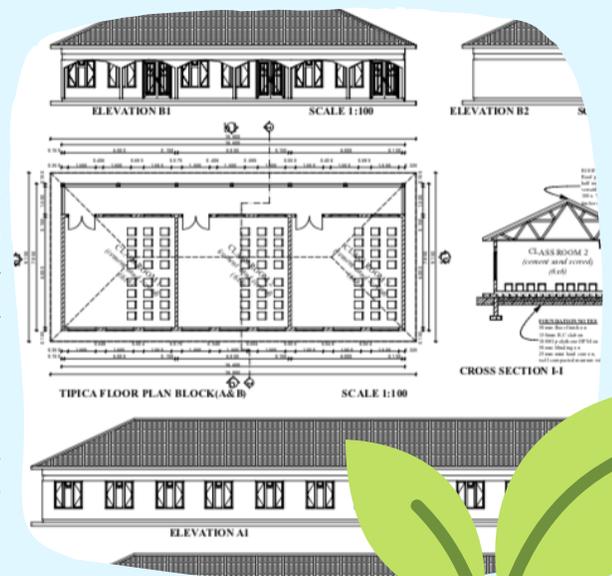
**"I WANT TO SELL MY PIG, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IF THAT WAS OK WITH YOU."
DAVID'S SMILE WAS BEAMING WHEN HE TOLD US THIS STORY, HE WAS SO PROUD
OF THE YOUNG MAN FOR WANTING TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY WHILE
STEWARDING WELL WHAT THE LORD HAD BLESSED HIM WITH.**

KING SPORTS ACADEMY JIMMY KALYANGO

Our staff also had the opportunity to visit Jimmy's farm; we were so glad to finally see in person the things we've read many reports about! On one of Jimmy's farm properties, he has planted coffee and matoke, has started building a two story pig and goat pen with a chicken coop, and is close to finishing the small home on the property.

Jimmy has the materials to start making bricks on his own property. This would save him from the costs of buying and transporting the bricks. However, Jimmy has seen that this too can be an opportunity to teach some of the young boys and girls from his ministry another skill. So as building and farming continue, he wants to start making his own bricks and offer time to young adults to learn to make bricks.

In a different location, Jimmy has been blessed, with the help of some friends and a church in Truckee, CA, to acquire another piece of land. In February when Jimmy showed us this land, he said that it had been fully cleared from all the brush and is currently being used as a soccer field for the kids of the surrounding villages. The bath-house on the property was completed and, as he walked us around the field, he explained the plans for the school that will be built to serve as a space for primary school students as well as a vocational training space. We're excited to report that the blueprints are finished for this project and they look beautiful!





BARNABAS MWESIGA

As you've read before, Barnabas has a beautiful family farm where he grows different crops and raises livestock. We had the privilege of walking around the farm with him. He showed us where the garlic is stored after it is harvested, how they're making their own concrete fence posts to save money, and in the same breath would pray for the blessing of a healthy harvest and rain over the land.



One day during our time in Uganda, Barnabas saw a man and woman selling fresh fish on the roadside. He stopped and asked how much they were selling the fish for. Before we drove away Barnabas pulled out his notebook and wrote down all the information he had just learned; he started to tell us that he is doing research to determine how he could raise fish in the ponds on his farmland and what type of profit could be produced to support himself and his ministry.

THE BRICK MAKER

Dave Carr, from Vermont and a member of GSSM's leadership team, has been doing research about a way to produce bricks that is sustainable and simple. He's found a way to assemble a simple brick maker. We are currently brainstorming how these common items can be purchased or sent to our staff in Uganda. We have seen and heard that the need for a way to make bricks is present. We are praying that this mechanism is the solution we've been looking for. Ideally, Jimmy and other staff members would be able to use this brick maker to produce bricks when they are building on their own land, to sell bricks to support their families and ministries, and offer training for an incredibly useful skill to young adults in their area.



DAVE CARR'S BRICK MAKER



THE FIRST
BRICK MADE
WITH DAVE'S
BRICK MAKER!



JIMMY'S BRICK PILE, DELIVERED BY TRUCK

Seeing all of this progress has been a big encouragement to all of us at GSSM. After visiting Uganda in February, we have already received updates and pictures of steps that are being taken towards sustainable and profitable goals. The men and women we met in Uganda who are working around the clock to care for their communities, coach young athletes, share the Gospel, and disciple young boys and girls showed us that their desire to bring the Kingdom to earth is a deep rooted calling within them. When they would share with us their business plans, ministry goals, and expectations of the Lord to do great things, it was so clear that their faith in our Father was the driving force behind everything they do.

WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY WITH US

...not only for current GSSM students, but for the many alumni who are still giving all of their efforts to their ministries. Through the next few months, we will share more specifically on each of the Ebenezer team members so that you can get an even better picture of the staff in Uganda, what they're doing, and see how the Lord is moving in such massive ways through those four men and their committed mentor, Barnabas Mwesiga.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

In the fall of 2020, GSSM is planning to have a conference and workshop in Uganda that will give our alumni and students another training opportunity. The vision for this conference is to invite alumni and students from around Africa to spend several days learning from GSSM alumni, staff, and sports ministry leaders who are sustaining and running their own ministries. If you are interested in making a contribution towards the beginning stages of this project, please contact us! We are excited to share more with you about this conference in the near future.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO STAND WITH, PRAY FOR, AND SUPPORT GSSM. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR EACH OF YOU.

IN CHRIST, SEQUOI PHIPPS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS