

# NEWS BRIEF

OCTOBER 2019

## DAVID LUSUKU

You may have heard Alyssa talk about the four Ebenezers and how each of them has gifts and talents that compliment one another. She refers to David as “the leader”. When we spent time with the Ebenezer team in February, it was clear to us that David’s ministry and his plans moving forward were given to him directly from the Lord. His vision for bringing the Kingdom to his community is so beautiful. David’s life has not been free from trial or difficulty, though, and to see him go above and beyond to serve his community through ministry is a powerful testimony.

David is the youngest of a family of twelve children. When he was just four years old, his father, who struggled with alcohol, left his family. Over the years, David lost five sisters and four brothers to diseases, accidents, and HIV. This left his mother to raise David and two older sisters on her own. In the midst of this difficult time, while David was in high school, he heard a woman preach the Gospel for the first time in his life. Since that day in 1997 he has been walking out his life in relationship with Jesus.

David and his family live in the central region of the Buikwe district in a town called Lugazi, about 50Km away from Kampala. David and his wife have two biological daughters and one son as well as “three spiritual children” who live in their home with them.



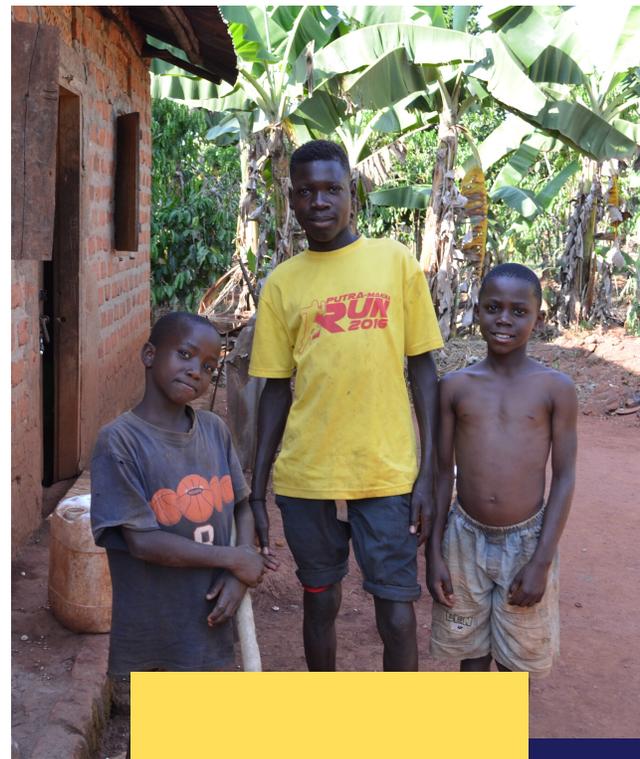
# DAVID & GSSM

In 2008, Barnabas introduced the GSSM course to David. As he went through the course, David said that “the lessons opened up [our] minds to start a sports ministry.” Barnabas supported David and the other Ebenezers as they were beginning their own ministries. He helped David to find soccer balls and other sports equipment so that he could get his dream off the ground and he has been working with GSSM for the last 10 years.

When I asked David why he was passionate specifically about sports ministry, this is how he responded,

**“SPORTS IS A TOOL WHICH CAN CREATE QUICKLY A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY. SPORTS, ESPECIALLY SOCCER, UNITES PEOPLE... IT IS A LANGUAGE WHICH CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND BETTER.”**

When we visited David’s town in February, we were able to see where and how he serves in his community every day. David trains young athletes and coaches soccer for four age groups from 13 to 18+ year olds. With the athletes and youth he interacts with in his town, David is intentional about discipleship and evangelism. He takes time at every training to share truth and encouragement from the Gospel. David has met and mentored a few young boys in the community who are learning how to farm and take care of livestock on David’s farm. Remember the story about the young boy who raised a pig and wanted to pay his family’s school fees from the June news brief? That young boy was mentored by David!





In February, we saw one plot of land he was using to raise livestock and grow coffee and matoke. He has acquired another plot of land which will be the future site where he is planning to establish a school building and church.

David has continued farming throughout the year. He shared with us that there are some necessary repairs that he must make to the animal pens and that it has been hard to purchase animal feed recently.

Something I noticed when we met David was that he was extremely gifted in organization and leadership. His plans are well thought out and he is very intentional about making sure each step is accomplished with excellence.

Now that David has acquired the land for the school and church, he is looking forward to beginning the process of building and developing that space for his community. David shared with us in a recent report that his plan before doing this is to finish paying the bank loan that has helped him purchase the land and upkeep his farm. He is two months away from this and it will be fully paid off by December!



In February, David told us that, once the leaders in his community heard and understood his plan to invest in the town with a school and church, they quickly approved his plans and are so excited to have someone pouring into the youth there. He is excited to break ground on this project in 2020.

Not only is David raising 3 adopted children in his home, but he has recently been able to regularly provide food for four elderly members of his community. David's leadership and efforts in his community are catching fire and his ministry is growing rapidly. Some young women in the area have requested that David help them train for and start a netball team, a popular sport for women in Uganda.



As he looks forward to the coming months, David's plans include beginning a consistent feeding program for the children in his community, starting to train the girls in netball, and organizing outreach matches for his senior team of soccer players so that they can take the Gospel to other communities. He would like to increase crop production on his farm to provide for the future construction of the school and church. He is still in need of chairs and a good P.A. system. Just because there is not a building yet does not mean church isn't happening! Chairs and a P.A. system would allow for this gathering to grow and serve more members of the community. In December, David is hosting a Christmas soccer tournament and outreach.

When you think of the Ebenezer team and of David, pray for all that he is doing in his community. Pray with us that the impact the Lord makes through David would ring into eternity in ways far bigger than David could ever imagine. Also pray for David as he is mentoring four young boys and teaching them leadership skills, farming and how to raise livestock.

I asked David what has recently been an encouragement to him. He said,

**"I AM GRATEFUL THAT THE COMMUNITY RESPECTS AND TRUSTS ME... THE PARENTS HAVE NOTICED THAT THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY... PARENTS ARE NOW SUPPORTING ME AND ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN MINISTRY PROGRAMS."**

## **WILL YOU PRAY WITH US FOR DAVID?**

We are so proud of David and all the work he is doing daily to serve his community.

As Alyssa discussed in last month's news brief, we would like to raise enough financial support to have each of the Ebenezer team members transition into full-time staff positions with GSSM. We would like to provide a salary of \$800 per month for each Ebenezer team member.

Thank you all so much for your consistency in prayers and support of GSSM and for praying with us for the Ebenezer Team! These men are carrying the torch forward for GSSM in Uganda; we are so grateful for them. Continue to pray for David as he serves his community. Be on the look out for more updates about his ministry in the months to come!

**IN CHRIST, SEQUOI PHIPPS**