

NEWS BRIEF

September 2019

ISAAC "THE EVANGELIST"

I am honored to have the privilege to introduce you to Issac Luyga, our next Ebenezer Team member in our Newsletter series.

Isaac is 28 years old and the youngest Ebenezer team member. He was born in Kampala, Uganda. His father had 3 wives, a cultural norm. His mother, Rose, gave birth to 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls. She raised the 8 children as a single mom, working day in and day out to meet their basic needs and school fees. Sadly the eldest son and sister, Irene, recently passed away. These losses happened in a very short amount of time... a devastating blow to the entire family. The loss of Irene was especially difficult as she took on the responsibility of caring for the younger siblings, two of which have special needs, as well as helping with the household expenses. She had just completed her studies to become a lawyer and secured her first job in that field.

The family felt very tormented by the enemy and went through a period of time questioning God. But they leaned on a promise from scripture in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Something Isaac said about this really resonated with me as I lost my brother and my niece in quick succession... "The pain, brokenness and hurt of their passing may not go away but we are learning to boast in my brokenness, hurt and difficulties for when we are weak, broken, then we are strong. His grace is sufficient for me."

At age 10 while playing soccer at school a man who coached a team came to the school field and asked Isaac to be a part of his team.



While playing for this team the man shared the Gospel with the entire group. These statements really struck Isaac, "there is someone who gives eternal life and the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom". This evoked a big question from Isaac; "Why are we here? After all, don't we die?" His question was answered in the talks the coach gave. That "Jesus came and died for me and gave me eternal life if, I only accept his free gift." Isaac faced a lot of bullying growing up and when the coach shared about Jesus this really helped him overcome the trauma of those situations. Isaac said that because of this coach sharing his faith, many questions he had were answered and he realized that he was acting as a fool. He was not fearing God, therefore he wouldn't receive wisdom... "so I just had to accept Jesus in my life. Since that moment, I have never been the same".

A former member of Sports Outreach, Sam Kibedi, later approached Isaac and asked him to come join an outreach soccer team coached by Barnabas Mwesiga. He was only 12 years old while all the members of the team were just under 20 years of age. He felt that the members were more skilled than he was but he just knew God was calling him and “planted in my heart to serve Him.” He was offered a 3-year contract to be a part of this team known as the Good News Team. After completing 2 years and being asked to add an additional 3 years to his contract, he felt as though God was saying “no” and that He had a different plan for Isaac’s life. As he thanked them for the opportunities given to him and for molding him into the man after God’s heart that he is today, he decided to follow God’s leading... “God has been with me from day one when I accepted Him, and He is faithful to keep His promises, 1 Samuel 17:3-7.”

Isaac went on to begin a ministry called “Changing Lives through Soccer Ministries - Uganda”. He formed soccer teams that would play other soccer league teams and share the Gospel after the matches. At one of these matches, Jimmy’s team, “The Kings” played against them. Also, the guest speaker after the match was none other than Barnabas Mwesiga, Isaac’s former coach and also GSSM’s new African Director. He shared with Isaac about the course and how he should apply to take the course. Jimmy also shared his own experience during the 18 months of training the course required.



After a year, Isaac enrolled in GSSM’s training program. Since then he graduated from the program and has now been asked by Barnabas to become one of the Ebenezer team members. This team is an intricate part of Barnabas’s plan to build our African staff and have a group of dedicated believers come behind him to be groomed to continue what we have started. Another really amazing part of what makes this team unique is that they are to be a model team for other nations to mimic. A team that is constructed of specific individuals, all with strengths that the other doesn’t possess in order to run sports ministries even more effectively. To have accountability, to rely on one another, to uplift, propel and encourage them in their callings!

Since accepting that position to be on the Ebenezer team, Isaac has added discipleship to his programs. This is something that he is extremely passionate about.

I have for years called Isaac the “Billy Graham” of his generation. I am not over exaggerating! I have never in my lifetime met someone who quotes scripture so naturally. Many times in conversation I will be thinking “was that from scripture?” Sure enough, it usually is. When he speaks, people listen and drink in what he is saying. He has an uncanny way of challenging you to be bold in your faith and be unashamed of the Gospel. He personally challenged me 2 years ago by something he said and it has stuck with me ever since and has become one of my mantras,

“I am unashamed of my faith and undaunted by my calling.”

I still can hear his words now and they moved me in a way I so desperately needed to be moved - to be BOLD in my faith and STAND FIRM in my calling. Isaac has this unique effect on those he comes in contact with in that he challenges them, I believe, without knowing the impact he will have. Why? Because he is faithful in listening to the Holy Spirit and acting in obedience to what He is calling him to do. I really believe that Isaac will impact nations for Jesus just like Billy Graham before him. I am so thankful to have him as part of our GSSM staff and can't wait to see how God uses him for his honor and glory.



Some of Isaac's long-term goals that I would ask you to pray over:

- 1) To build a center or rent a building to focus more on discipleship training, run sports ministries and teach sustainable projects to improve on their standard of living.**
- 2) To begin and sustain more outreaches that are directly involved with local churches.**
- 3) To identify and train a "Timothy" to come alongside of him and carry on what he has started.**
- 4) To enroll and be accepted into a divinity program in order to pursue becoming a pastor. "God is calling me to lead his people".**

Please pray with us for Isaac and the entire Ebenezer team as God continues to mold them and use them to further His Kingdom. Something God has really laid on my heart is to go before them and advocate for these 4 incredible men that God called specifically to this ministry. They are impacting so many with so little. Their faithfulness in their calling is such an example and testament to their deep desire to follow Jesus no matter what and to share the Gospel with as many people as possible! They are truly living out what Jesus commanded us, his followers, in Matthew, "To GO and MAKE disciples of ALL nations".

It is my desire to raise enough support to bring them on as full-time GSSM staff. Please prayerfully consider joining us in helping us reach this goal. My goal is to be able to provide a salary of \$800 a month for each Ebenezer team member. Pray with me as we trust in the Lord's provision.



Thank you in advance for your prayers and your consideration in providing for these incredible men who are the next generation of GSSM leaders. And keep Isaac, the Evangelist, in your prayers as He continues to serve the Lord by making disciples!

IN HIM<><

Olumo Cauc Mahone