

NEWS BRIEF

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 2020

We love that we get to say "2019 was a year to remember." Looking back on all the stories from reports and newsletters in the last 12 months, we truly do have a lot to celebrate. We hope you enjoy reading through these highlights as much as we have. You all have been an incredibly important part of GSSM this year. Your prayers, messages, encouragement, and financial support have driven us in moments when we needed it the most. These victories are yours to celebrate too. From everyone at GSSM, thank you for a great 2019 and happy New Year!



MARCH

- Liberian students completed the GSSM course in record time under the direction of Pastor Wellington Morris. Each student represented a different region of the country and returned to their communities to implement sports ministries with their local churches.
- Jimmy's farm projects in Uganda took off! His most recent update said "This year I have managed to build the farm house, piggery houses, chicken houses, and goat houses... I believe that next year I will be bringing animals to my farm and... I will also start [on the other farm property] building the community school, and the vocational training for the less privileged children in our children's ministry.
- The Swahili translation of the GSSM Textbook began in March and progress continues to be made.

APRIL

- Some of the GSSM staff traveled to Kampala for a Student Evaluation Trip.
- We met with Barnabas and the Ebenezer Team. We saw some of their ministries and farms and heard updates from each Ugandan staff member.
- We also met with current students and some GSSM graduates. They shared their triumphs and trials, asked questions about how to continue pressing on successfully in the course, and connected with one another.
- A strong group of students took their final exams as the last step to completing their course!
- Barnabas shared about some sustainability projects and other goals for his family farm.



MAY

- Hundreds of people became homeless after hurricane force winds and torrential rain washed away homes and claimed lives in Malawi.
- Two GSSM graduates who are also pastors in their communities had personal losses as well. GSSM did our best to support them in this process.
- Another GSSM student from Malawi has been using sports ministry in public schools. Attendance at his ministry began with just 17 students and quickly grew as word spread and he gained more resources. He now operates in 3 public schools and ministers to over 450 students.
- Pastor Henry Banda led a 3 day Easter outreach in Malawi sponsored by Calvary Family Church that had an attendance of over 1,100 people.
- In Uganda, the Easter outreach was a success in spite of bad, rainy weather. Food packs were distributed, the Gospel was shared, and several students from the Gulu region received their diplomas!

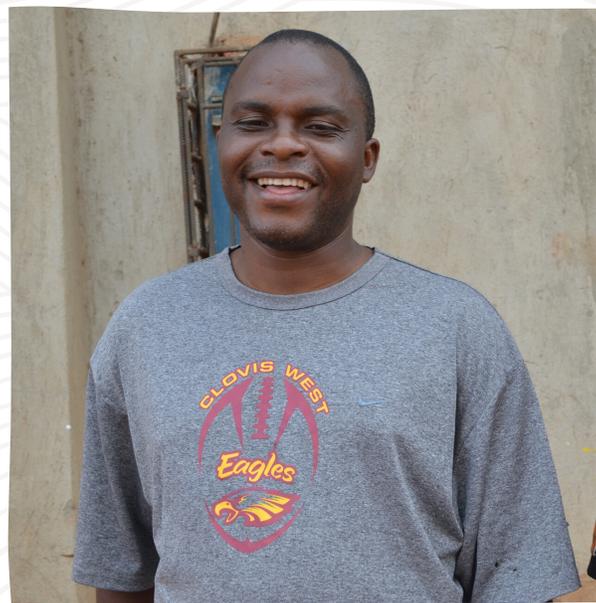


JUNE

- David Lusuku (of the Ebenezer team) 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 in his village.
- On one of Jimmy's farm properties, he is growing matoke and coffee plants. This summer he shared the blueprints for his vocational training center and they are beautiful!
- A member of GSSM's leadership team, Dave Carr, assembled a brick making device that can be easily replicated in developing nations.

AUGUST

- Barnabas first met Jimmy when he visited the slum Jimmy was living in as a child. Their friendship began, as well as Jimmy's relationship with the Lord.
- Jimmy worked for another ministry for a while then got connected with Russ and GSSM.
- He is currently working in 3 different slums, teaching and discipling young children in each of these locations, and farming to sustain his ministries and future projects.





SEPTEMBER

- At 10 years old, Isaac was invited to play for a club soccer team. His coach shared the Gospel with his whole team and he was shocked at the offer of eternal life. He said “I just had to accept Jesus in my life. Since that moment, I have never been the same.
- ”Eventually, Isaac’s team played Jimmy’s soccer team and the half time speaker was Barnabas Mwesiga! A year later, Isaac enrolled in the GSSM course.
- Now an active member of the Ebenezer team, Isaac is coaching, mentoring, and discipling young athletes in his community.

OCTOBER

- We often refer to David as “the leader”. He has strong vision for ministry and for the Ebenezer team.
- In high school (1997), David heard a woman share the Gospel and it was the first time he had heard such good news.
- He met Barnabas in 2008 and was introduced to the GSSM course.
- Now, David trains young athletes and coaches soccer for 4 different age groups. He is raising 3 adopted children along with his own children, providing food for 4 elderly members in his community, and planning to start a netball team to give more women the opportunity to be involved in sports.
- He is also farming, raising livestock, and using his farming to teach other young boys and girls in the area how to farm.



NOVEMBER

- Patrick became an orphan at a young age and was living in an orphanage. It was here that he heard about Jesus for the first time. Years later he found himself sleeping in a church where a woman taught him how to play the piano and he found his passion for music. Soon, he met Sam Kibedi who invited him to a sports fellowship meeting where he met Barnabas.
- Barnabas mentored him for a while and eventually invited him to be a part of a new ministry team he was forming called the Ebenezers.
- Patrick is the administrative pin on the Ebenezer team and serves by assisting Barnabas with the Ugandan GSSM students and has plans to use his music to serve and even teach youth in his community.



DECEMBER

- The 2019 Christmas Outreach was held in David's village called Kiteza in the Lugazi area. The GSSM team that spent 6 days in Lugazi included Barnabas, the Ebenezer team, and GSSM student volunteers.
- The team has sent us updates about the outreach and said that it was an incredible week spent serving the community. We're so excited to give you a full update soon!



WHAT AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

It is always amazing to sit down and review the last year and all that God has done in and through our students and staff. I am so encouraged to see how God is building our staff and growing our student body. Our students are changing the lives of so many. I always think about how each student will reach hundreds, if not thousands, of people with the Good News of Jesus. Think about that! We could truly see a revival spread across the world because of their commitment to carry on a sports ministry for the next 3 to 5 years and beyond. This training is impacting lives around the world. I cannot wait to see what God does in 2020! Please be in prayer for our staff, students, and graduates as they continue to go out into the harvest fields of the world. Thank you again for your continued prayers and generous financial support of GSSM. Without your loving support, none of this would be possible. We are so thankful to have you as a part of our GSSM team.

IN HIM,

Glenn CaucMahon