

# Global School of Sports Ministry

# NEWS BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2020

I am excited to share an update with you this month about a few of our alumni and staff. Some ministry has been able to restart with restrictions while some areas are still under strict guidelines. As we continue to adjust to changes in our own lives, our GSSM friends abroad are experiencing similar changes. We also have a big announcement of a new special GSSM program!

## ISAAC

Kampala, Uganda

"The [Covid 19] restrictions have been lifted a little. Public transportation was opened; though there are guidelines to follow, this will help me to be able to travel and do more ministry.

This month with our U11-U14 [athletes] we studied making the right choices... and team building.

We thank God for being able to get sugar cane and sweet banana as our refreshments. The children and the youth enjoyed it."



## MUAN

Churachandpur, India

"We have many [Covid 19] cases in our district and state due to the migrant workers. Since we have cases in our district, every activity is put on hold.

Public gatherings [like] schools, church, and sports activities are strictly prohibited.

Our school is struggling a lot due to this pandemic. No tuition fees can be imposed to the students since there are no classes, but the school is rented so we have to pay the rent at the school."



# MACGEOFREY

Lilongwe, Malawi

"Through this period of COVID-19 we have been effective in teaching church members and leaders on the importance of putting lessons into practice through small groups.

This means that [church leaders] are able to reach out to others through one on one evangelism and discipleship and as the result there is a church growth both numerically and spiritually.

Before COVID-19 our membership was 136, now within three months [following minimum attendance rules] per service, our membership is at 205. It has taken 4 years to grow to 136 members but it has taken us three months to grow 69 more and that is wonderful.

As a family we are safe and healthy and we put on masks when going to town and other gatherings. We are also at the forefront [of] advising fellow church members on the importance of following [Covid 19] restrictions."

\*Macgeofrey was also able to purchase and distribute maize, rice, sugar, salt, cooking oil, sanitizers, and face masks to 5 families in his community!

# BARNABAS

Kampala, Uganda

"We are doing fine this way and [we] praise God for His providence especially in this world crisis of Covid 19.

The most fortunate factor that kept the virus away is the same factor that gave Uganda plenty of food during this period, and that factor is God's grace and mercy only. For example a bunch of Matooke that was usually costing 20,000 shillings now costs 1,000 shillings.

When transportation opened in the middle of June, we, as the Ebenezer team, had a chance to meet and share experiences and exchange ideas on possible ways forward with ministry. Some of the Doves members and I have put time in to rehabilitate our playing field by planting grass on it, taking advantage of the rainfall that we had since March.

The collection and distribution of the students' lessons has been halted because of the lockdown. Patrick and I have since agreed on a physical follow up with the students."



# GSSM SPONSOR A STUDENT

As you probably know, every October we have a new class of students start the GSSM training program. We are always excited to see new applications rolling into our inbox in the summer months and to read the stories of eager men and women all over the world who are passionate about the Gospel, sports, and investing in their communities.

We have been brainstorming and planning how we can offer a new level of support to our students while still preparing them to be independent and equipped to gain support from their community members that will be lasting and sustainable.

We have seen many students finish our training course and jump boldly into ministry; we have seen so many ministries thrive. We also have seen in many reports from alumni that, though they are supported prayerfully and financially by their local church and other community members, they often face difficulty finding enough financial support for all of their ministry needs. These needs can often include resources for meals at sports camps or weekly meals for children, jerseys for sports teams who are ready to compete with other teams, shoes or soccer cleats for athletes without any shoes at all, and more soccer balls (or balls for other sports). We've seen teams of 20-30 athletes have to practice with 1 or 2 soccer balls.



In discussing these needs of our students, we wanted to be sure that we would never create a dependence in our students. At GSSM, we believe that our training course equips our students to start and maintain their ministry without our financial support.

**IT IS DESIGNED THIS WAY SO THAT, NO MATTER HOW LONG WE EXIST, GSSM ALUMNI AND THE IMPORTANT MINISTRIES AND OUTREACHES THEY'VE BEGUN WILL OUTLAST US AND THE ORGANIZATION.**

So, all of this being said, we have specifically designed our new Sponsor a Student Program to be in line with the goals and values of GSSM while effectively propelling our students into ministry with quality training and preparedness.

This program will match a sponsor with a student who is actively taking the GSSM training course and is preparing to begin their own ministry in their community. The sponsor will be matched with a student and given information and updates about the student's life, progress in the course, graduation, and ministry plans. Each sponsor will also have the option of supporting their student in different ways. As a sponsor, you can choose to support their **GSSM Sports Ministry Starter Kit**, contribute towards their **Scholarship Fund**, or contribute to their **Travel Costs** so that they can visit a sports ministry practicum.

<b>SPORTS MINISTRY STARTER KIT</b>	<b>~ \$200.00 SHIPPING COSTS WILL VARY</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b>	<b>\$150.00 TOTAL</b>
<b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	<b>COSTS VARY</b>

The sponsorship will last from when the sponsor and student are matched (around 6 months into the student's training) until the student graduates. We will provide a clear breakdown of the sponsorship costs based on the option the sponsor is contributing to. Sponsors will also have the option of a one time gift or monthly donations. We want to communicate clearly how each dollar is helping to propel a student into ministry.

My dream with this program is to ensure that GSSM students feel prepared to jump into their ministry and serve their communities without feeling like they are starting 10 steps behind. I think about how blessed and encouraged I felt when I graduated from college was about to begin a new chapter of my life by stepping onto the international mission field for a year. I had no idea what to expect. I would be away from home and asked to assist ministries in different cultures that I had never been exposed to. However, my peace in starting that journey came from the vast amount of support, prayer, and financial donations I received before embarking on that journey. I still had to make sacrifices along the way, but knowing that the essentials were covered gave me a peace of mind and reassurance that I really could do what the Lord called me to; He had provided the physical and tangible resources for me to do so through the people around me!

As we prayerfully prepare to launch our new **Sponsor a Student Program**, would you consider joining us? Included with your response card this month, there is a second card with the option to receive more information about the **GSSM Sponsor a Student Program**. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be a part of our pilot program of sponsored students, would you fill out that card and send it back to us?

We are so excited to rally around our students in this new way and we hope and pray that the Lord will bless our students with a sense of certainty in their calling.

Thank you for reading, sharing about GSSM with your family, friends, and communities, and for the support and encouragement you've continually offered to us at GSSM.

IN CHRIST,

Sequoi Phipps  
Associate Director



Note: The next installment of Russ's *Reflections*, the short excerpts from his book, will come out with the October News Brief.