



News Brief

December 2020

Can you believe that it is December?

I have heard so many people say, “it feels like this year flew by and took so long at the same time.” Do you feel that way? There are moments from this year that I have reflected on and I realize just how much really did happen this year.

Beyond the big, monumental, international happenings that have made us aware of how historic the year 2020 will be and somewhere among the long days of quarantine that became somewhat monotonous, incredible things were still happening

I wanted to take this short news brief to highlight one of those incredible stories and share it with you all because it has provided me so much encouragement this year. A GSSM alumni named **Franklin Shelimba** lives and serves in Nairobi, Kenya. His ministry is called Global Sports Outreach Ministry and he has grown his ministry to reach people all over the Nairobi area, empowering them to produce their own mushroom crops to sell and support themselves and their families.



With each report he sends to us, I see how the Lord is using Franklin to care for his community. It is also so clear that Franklin’s efforts are producing a lot of growth for his ministry.

In a recent update, Franklin shared...

“Today I have more than 30 families in [the] Mushroom program. Some of the [participants] in this ministry are women. [We are] trying to pull them from prostitution [to earn a] living, to mushroom farming so that they can support their families. They are young girls between the age of 25 - 30 years old.”

"Right now [I] am training families on mushroom farming and at the same time ministering to them. This is a new thing to many since it takes short time to grow [mushrooms] and [we] only need a small room to do this farming. It's has empower[ed] many families spiritually and economically, and now they are working to use this as a means for [providing] food."





The incredible part of this process is that Franklin isn't just using mushroom farming to help families generate income. He is using every aspect of connecting with these families to share the Gospel, encouraging them to build a faithful community among themselves. In areas where he has been able to teach groups of adults how to grow mushrooms, he rents out a small space that the families can use to grow their mushroom crops as well as meet regularly for prayer times and Bible studies.

On top of this empowering outreach, Franklin also trains young athletes and hosts soccer and volleyball tournaments; he's been planning a Christmas tournament for this month! He was recently able to acquire some new equipment including a new volleyball net. We're looking forward to hearing about how these tournaments go!

So, in the midst of a lot of struggles this year, there have still been moments worth noting and celebrating. I hope Franklin's story inspires you as you look back on 2020. I know it will be tough for many of us, but maybe it's worth looking between the monumental events of the year to find some moments that may also be small victories and miracles.

Speaking of the wonderful things that have happened this year, you may already know that Alyssa and her husband Mike welcomed their newest addition into the world! That being said, please note that Alyssa will be on maternity leave into January. Aimee and I will continue to manage all office tasks while Alyssa cares for herself and **Charly Wren**.



As we reach the end of year, we are praising the Lord for his amazing provision over the last 12 months and are praying that He continues to provide for us to meet the needs of the ministry. Would you prayerfully consider making an end-of-year gift to GSSM before December 31 to help us start off 2021 well prepared for all the new things that are to come?

We want to thank each one of you for being on "Team GSSM" this year. We may say it a lot, but it never ceases to be true, we could not do this without you and we are so grateful that you support us through prayer, encouragement, and giving.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas, a pleasant end to your year, and a wonderful start to 2021!

**In Christ,
Sequoi Phipps
Associate Director**

