

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY NEWS BRIEF

MARCH 2021

We are so glad to share a full report on the Christmas Outreach with you!

As noted in the November News Brief, we did not know what to expect for this annual outreach. The trials of the pandemic had shut down so many ministries and outreaches all over the world. We were so encouraged to hear that restrictions were being lifted and ministries were able to safely resume, with precautions, throughout Uganda. We hope that you enjoy reading this update and can celebrate with us all of the great things the Lord did through this Christmas Outreach!

Barnabas and the Ebenezer Team were joined by 20 GSSM Students, Alumni, and young athletes to help facilitate the outreach and make all of the events possible.



Each Ebenezer Team member brought a couple of athletes from their ministries to participate. Three GSSM Alumni, two students from Uganda, and a couple of GSSM friends from Kenya.

They partnered with local Migyeran Pastor Vincent Musisi and his church to make sure that all the members of the community were able to connect with other believers once the outreach was over.

Each day of the outreach began with the team meeting for prayer, group devotions, and breakfast as they prepared to host the events for the day. Then the team spent every morning of the 5-day outreach cleaning up different areas of the community including the main trading center and around the hospital. They collected litter and other debris from the areas. Barnabas shared that they received many encouraging comments from members of the community as they cleaned. The neighbors were surprised and grateful to see them volunteering to clean up the streets around their homes!

Just before lunch every day, the team hosted a free youth soccer clinic for any of the youth in the community to attend. Barnabas said that, after seeing the way the Ebenezer Team trained soccer players,



Then, each evening, the team hosted a soccer match at which one of the outreach team members would share with the spectators the Gospel Message of Jesus! Barnabas said that “the remarks from spectators gave us a very good platform to gain more spectators every day.”

“Many local coaches wanted their kids coached [in] the kind of [soccer] that the Ebenezer team was playing.”

Even though they held each game at a different venue, they still had more and more members of the village coming to watch! He also shared that “The Ebenezer team was praised for an impressive style of play” as well as their unique way of training their teams. Afterward, to close the day, the team would share a Gospel-centered video or movie.

During the outreach, the team was also able to distribute Family Food Packs to the ones with the greatest need with Pastor Vincent’s direction. Families with children in desperate need also received Kid’s Kits which included clothing and shoes. Barnabas said that this portion of the outreach touched Pastor Vincent and encouraged him to see the care and love shown through the team's generosity and hospitality. He also shared that, “Most mothers of the children that [received] clothing and shoes were truly excited to see their children getting the [clothing] gifts.”



The week of outreach concluded on Sunday; the team joined Pastor Vincent’s church service and afterward the team prepared and shared the Christmas Dinner with the community. We all know just how special it is to celebrate a holiday with your family and friends and how sharing a meal together is always a beautiful time of unity and fellowship. That is why the Christmas Dinner is so important every year. It draws everyone together! The outreach team, athletes, church members, and members of the local community were all able to celebrate the Christmas holiday together and were able to take part in the dinner and dessert. In a local language, someone commented that,

“This is a special group that God has used to give our hearts delight.”

Barnabas reported that the event was a success in many ways. We are always grateful that some GSSM Students and Alumni are able to be a part of the ministry team and gain even more sports ministry experience. But overall, the greatest gift is the fellowship among the team and the interaction with the community. During the 5-day Christmas Outreach, **110 people** shared that they have chosen to follow Jesus! Please pray for each of these people that as they begin their journey of saying yes to Jesus as their Savior; that they would feel the same sense of community and family. Pray that they are able to remain connected to one another and other fellow believers. Be praying also for Pastor Vincent and the ministry he is continuing to do through his church to serve the community of Migyera.

THANK YOU for taking the time to pray for and generously give to this Christmas outreach. We are always so encouraged to see how the Lord moves through every aspect of this outreach. From receiving gifts to fund the outreach to seeing Barnabas and the Ebenezer team prayerfully and diligently plan the event to watching the entire week play out in accordance to His will. We are always in awe at how human efforts can produce an eternal impact. Thank you for being willing to be a part of this important ministry and supporting what the Lord is doing through our GSSM students, graduates, and staff all over the globe!

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To see more photos of the Christmas Outreach, be sure to take a look at our social media pages! If you feel the Lord leading you to give to Global School of Sports Ministry, please visit www.globalssm.org/donate or use the response card included with this News Brief.