

News Brief

Introducing Our Newest Partner...

Franklin Shelimba from Kenya

- Former soccer star in Kenya's premier soccer league.
- Graduate of GSSM; years of experience with sports ministry.
- Will serve as a volunteer, tent-maker. GSSM will provide expense money. Franklin is one more of GSSM's self-sustaining leaders.
- Franklin has already recruited 16 deeply committed students who wish to enroll in GSSM's next term beginning September 1, 2015.

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16 Kenyan students to begin GSSM's course this fall!

- Kenyan students are from Nairobi and other towns outside the capital.
- 16 students = 16 new sports ministry programs that will be developed, reaching people for Christ.
- Franklin will help mentor the students and develop outreach programs that will involve the students as part of their practicum requirement.
- **Some of the outreach programs in which the students will participate often are attracting hundreds of participants. One unique outreach he is using is called *PRAY-FIT*. Scores of people are participating in this fitness program that starts off with prayer, continues with the newest trend in aerobics (Tabata/Zumba) that results in a great workout and finishes with a Bible study. According to Franklin this unique workout is growing rapidly and many are turning to the Lord as a result.**



About Franklin, the man...

➤ Grew up in the slums of Nairobi.

- Later worked in a Nairobi slum program organized by a secular organization.
- Russ and Sue Carr met Franklin while investigating the Nairobi slum soccer program in preparation for launching slum outreaches in Uganda. Franklin served as one of their guides during their week-long visit.

➤ Through correspondence, personal contacts, telephone calls and much prayer, Franklin accepted Christ. Russ disciplined Franklin through long distance means and other visits.

- Franklin joins church and continues to grow in his faith.
- While continuing to work with the secular organization in the Nairobi slums Franklin begins to share his faith openly. The administration of the secular organization confronts him and tells Franklin he cannot share his faith with the youth with whom he is working.

➤ Franklin asks to join Sports Outreach so he can share the Good News. Sports Outreach expands to Kenya and Franklin heads up the program.

- Numerous doors of outreach are opened in Kenya and a variety of programs are established.





Franklin's Story takes a turn but God's grace and forgiveness are a testament to how great our God is!

- Than the stumble....Franklin committed a series of fiscal errors and is released by Sports Outreach. Franklin admits his mistakes and seeks forgiveness. His wife, a non-believer and behind some of the mistakes, runs off with another man and divorces Franklin. Several months pass.
- Franklin is a broken man seeking restoration. Russ continues to communicate with Franklin and attempts to assist this wounded warrior. Going to his pastor, Franklin submits himself for accountability.

➤ **Invited to enroll in GSSM's training program, Franklin does so and completes the 18-month term with flying colors. Starts outreach programs through his local church.**

- Months pass and Franklin contacts Russ. He has several potential students interested in enrolling in GSSM's training program. Franklin travels to Uganda and spends time with Barnabas. Barnabas confirms that Franklin is serious about his faith.



After committing the matter to prayer...

Russ invites Franklin to be one of our GSSM partners. Franklin accepts, agrees to be self-sustaining and serve as a volunteer. Russ indicates some expense money will be available when involving the GSSM students in outreach programs. Franklin thanks Russ and states, *"You are the only one who didn't turn his back on me. You never gave up on me."*

The fact is that the Lord never gives up on anyone...for which we can all praise and thank Him!

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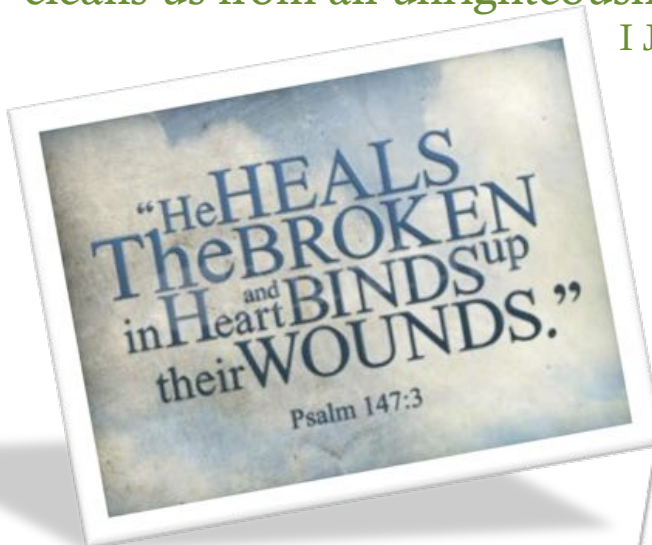
“There is none righteous, no not one.” Romans 3:10

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness.”

I John 1:9



RUSS' Observation...

One of the traits that impressed me about Franklin early on was his compassion for others. When I first met Franklin he and one or two of his friends would go into one of Nairobi's notorious slums in order to help a family devastated by AIDS. Each week Franklin would enter a very small, wretched hut where a single mother was dying of AIDS lying on a dirt floor in sweltering heat surrounded by her 5 young, frightened children. Franklin and his friends would then get busy cleaning this simple home, cook a meal and feed the family, provide potable water, wash their clothes, bathe their children and clean the sores of the dying mother.

How many 22 year old men do you know that have that kind of compassion? A fairy tale? No.

I was able to visit this family several months later. What I observed was another *Mother Teresa* in action.

**And so I present to you our latest GSSM partner, *Franklin Shelima*.
Forgiven, restored and grateful for God's mercy, grace and incredible love.**

Please pray for Franklin...

As he reaches out to some of the most needy people on earth. He is remarried now to a wonderful woman who helps him and encourages him in his outreach programs. He sustains himself by serving as a personal trainer for some of the well to do citizens of Nairobi.



✓ Your prayers and support for Franklin and his work in Kenya would be greatly appreciated. Please note that 100% of your designated gift goes to the individual or project that you designate.

✓ Thank you for your prayers and gifts as God directs you and enables you. We are deeply appreciative of your support as we equip dedicated men & women to go into the harvest fields of this very needy world in which we live.



Blessings!

Russ



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