

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

News & Brief

Global School of Sports Ministry



Global's **Barnabas Mwesiga** addresses soccer academy in Malawi

- A number of elite soccer players including their Muslim coach listened intently as Uganda's former national soccer coach talked soccer...then shared the Gospel. *According to Henry Banda, GSSM graduate, 45 players including the Muslim coach responded to Barnabas' altar call.*

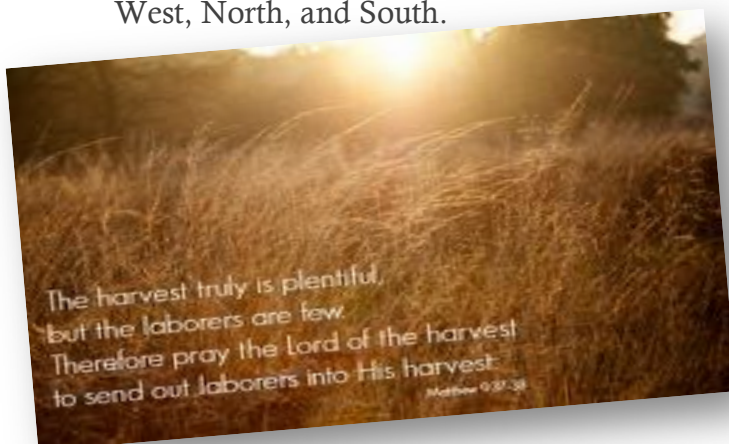
Pastor Banda set up the meeting and will follow up these new believers.

- Barnabas was in Malawi to administer oral and written final exams, evaluate student initiated sports outreach programs and interview prospective students.

GSSM

Welcomes Largest Class Ever

- Classes begin October 1, 2015
- Students represent numerous countries: Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Mexico, and the U.S.A.
- Ugandan students have largest representation coming from all parts of the country: East, West, North, and South.



The harvest truly is plentiful,
but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into His harvest.
Matthew 9:37-38

SPOTLIGHT on GSSM graduates



BANDA, our oldest student and recent graduate, finished our course with honors. He has also worked with *Campus Crusade*, *Scripture Union* and the *Bible Society* of Malawi. In addition, Henry played on Zambia's national soccer team as a young man. Henry has stated emphatically that, *"there is a great demand for the special kind of training that GSSM offers."* As if to test this statement, Henry was asked by a national Sunday school organization in his country to train many of Malawi's Sunday school teachers in the use of sports as a tool of evangelism and discipleship. Henry will use GSSM materials to fulfill this request.

Banda has strongly embraced GSSM and has asked to be one of our volunteer representatives in Malawi. He has also recruited prospective students from both Malawi and Zambia, all of whom have excellent references. The GSSM board will act on Henry's request to become one of our partners at our fall board meeting. He appears to be a very dedicated follower of Christ.

✓ **More partners join with GSSM in a united effort to "GO and make disciples..."**

UGANDA

Jimmy K graduated from GSSM 3 years ago. Just after he completed our course he was encouraged by another organization to resign since he did not meet their expectations. Jimmy went to his knees and asked the Lord to direct his life. Shortly thereafter, Jimmy felt led to go to a large, unreached slum in the shadows of the capital city, Kampala. The slum is essentially inhabited by Muslims. Within a relatively short period of time, Jimmy organized a soccer team, put together clinics and tournaments and soon had a large group of boys and girls involved in a series of sports programs. Jimmy went on to establish a feeding program that feeds over 300 children, started a children's choir who share their faith in and outside the slum, organized soccer and other sports leagues and now is ministering in a second slum which is also primarily a Muslim community.





Spotlight on GSSM Graduates continued...

As one of our partners, Jimmy helps train a number of GSSM students who meet our practicum requirement by working in Jimmy's slums. He also travels with Barnabas on a number of outreach trips with our students who are exposed to a variety of sports ministry programs.

GSSM is truly grateful to have Jimmy as one of our partners.

➤ KENYA

Franklin Shelimba graduated from GSSM year ago and now serves as one of our volunteer partners. He was featured in a previous update.

Shelimba was an outstanding soccer player in Kenya's premier soccer league but a serious injury put an end to his playing career.

Franklin initiated and is running several sports outreach programs that have attracted hundreds of participants. In addition his latest outreach called **"PRAY FIT"** has taken off. Franklin incorporates a very demanding aerobic fitness program (Tabata & Zumba) with a Bible study and a time of prayer.



According to Franklin his fitness outreach is very popular in Nairobi and continues to grow.

Shelimba has contacted 16 dedicated Kenyan sportsmen who would like to be part of GSSM's training program. These men & women live in different parts of Kenya.

Global welcomes Franklin as one of our volunteer partners.

IN OTHER NEWS

- GSSM's Uganda **Doves F.C.** continue to model sport ministry programs to students in training. Doves traveled to Kaginga to play *Seeta F.C.* in a friendly match. One spectator and two players on the Seeta team accept Christ. Global students on the Doves F.C. gain valuable experience in sports evangelism.



- Video Outreach** held in Kasoga Lugasi in Uganda as GSSM students are exposed to another means of outreach. 8 people embrace Christ as Lord and Saviour while 12 others re-dedicate their lives to the King of Kings.
- Little League World Series** If you were watching the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA you might have noticed Uganda was one of the international teams that had qualified. They opened with a win (4-1) against Dominican Republic but lost to Venezuela in their second match. This is significant because in 1989 when I was with Sports Outreach, we started baseball in Uganda in partnership with **Tom Roy** of *Unlimited Potential*, a baseball ministry.

Barnabas Mwesiga headed up the program and later became *Baseball Commissioner* of Uganda. Sports Outreach provided all of the equipment through their Sportsbridge program headed up by Les Forney, one of Russ' teammates at Westmont. For years there was a strong spiritual emphasis in the baseball program in Uganda and scores of young people came to Christ as a result. Later Barnabas resigned due to overwhelming sports ministry responsibilities. Barnabas was able to establish nearly 200 teams throughout the country and will be remembered as the **father of Ugandan baseball**.

On behalf of the students and staff of GSSM, I want to thank you for your prayers and much-needed support for our training program. As the school continues to expand and our graduates move into the harvest fields of the world, we need your prayers more than ever.

Thank you for your help as God would lead and enable you. Your partnership is deeply appreciated and vital.

With sincere thanks,

Russ Carr



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