

NewsBrief

I HAVE A DREAM

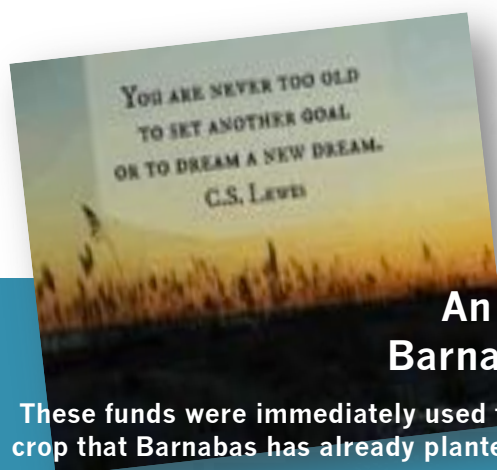
...A most incredible dream that soon may become a reality.

It is a dream that Barnabas Mwesiga, GSSM's African director shared with me as I discussed with him the possibility of his "retirement". (Average life span in Uganda is 50 years and Barnabas is now in his 60's).

What follows is Barnabas' "retirement dream". It is already in its initial stages. You won't want to miss this!

Lest you think Barnabas is going to retire in the traditional sense...read on. In addition to continuing his leadership role with GSSM, Barnabas has initiated a farming project on some property that his father left him after he went home to be with the Lord. His father, by the way, was 82 when he died.

Besides his initial experimental crop that has proven to be successful, Barnabas will be planting additional cash crops along with establishing fish farming (already underway), a piggery and potentially a myriad of other projects that are currently racing through the mind of Barnabas.



An anonymous donor sent some money to Barnabas to help him when he chooses to retire.

These funds were immediately used to purchase two water tanks that now provide irrigation for the initial crop that Barnabas has already planted. Water is being pumped into the tanks from a small river that runs along his property.



With the anticipated funds from the sale of his initial crop scheduled for December, 2017, Barnabas will activate his dream: exporting sports ministry into different parts of Africa.

Starting with Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe or Botswana, Barnabas will then regroup and target East Africa followed by a move into West Africa with all of the unique challenges that the countries in the Western part of the continent seem to generate.

With his newly acquired funds, Barnabas will purchase a used mini-bus that will carry a team of 24 Africans including GSSM students, to the designated countries.

One month prior to visiting these targeted nations, Barnabas plans to take a “set up” trip to make final preparations with the churches and community leaders for the 3-5 day outreach scheduled for each country.

Once sports ministry programs have been established in these countries and the leadership properly trained, Barnabas will encourage the leaders to use his method of farming in order to support their programs. Thus most of the costs would be underwritten and not dependent upon outside sources.

Barnabas is also dreaming of establishing collection centers in the U.S.A. to acquire used and new sports equipment and materials that he could, in turn, distribute to those African countries that have established ongoing sports ministry programs.

If it is God's will, Barnabas is asking

the Lord to give him at least ten more years to implement his dream. Would you please join him in prayer that God would act favorably upon his request?

I am so excited about Barnabas' vision. It would fulfill the desire of my own heart as well to see our brothers and sisters in Africa and beyond initiate and maintain their own programs of evangelism and discipleship. Now this is what I call a very special retirement plan. All of this to the glory of the Lord!





IN OTHER NEWS

✓ GSSM's model soccer team, the Doves F.C., traveled to Mpigi in Uganda winning their match 3-2 but more importantly 5 people gave their lives to Christ.

✓ The "Ebenezer" group formed by GSSM graduates and led by Barnabas Mwesiga, continued with their Bible studies, prayer time and outreach programs. Using a video program shown in a pair of churches in one of the suburbs of Kampala, approximately 80 people attended the program each evening. **16 adults and 11 children came to the Lord as a result of these two evangelistic programs.**

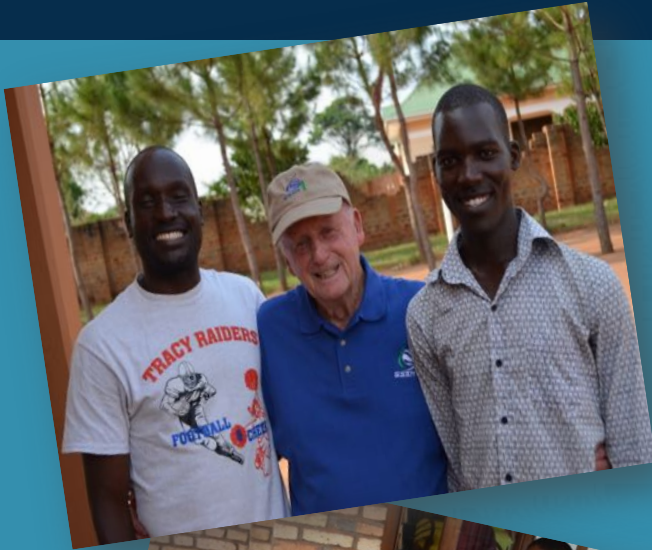
- ✓ Chris L., a GSSM graduate, took his soccer team that he had organized to Lugazi where his squad played a team from the first division of Uganda's professional league. Although his team lost the match, **16 people gave their lives to Christ when the Gospel was presented after the game.**
- ✓ In a letter sent to GSSM's instructor, Steve Burke, Malawi student, Macgeofrey, who will graduate in April wrote the following:

"I am humbled to have gone through this eye opening, soul searching school of sports ministry and without prejudice this is rare stuff to find anywhere else in the world. This is more than words can say or write but it has had a real impact on my soul for I had you as my tutor praying for me and encouraging me at the same time studying like it was like I was in class. I thank God almighty by enabling me to read the manual (textbook) again and again in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Macgeofrey went on to say, **"The ten principles of sports ministry and the last lesson on discipleship, have made a great deal of difference in my life and when I am facilitating the sports ministry these days, Wow, it's not the same Macgeofrey who used to be 18 months ago but thanks to God almighty through Steve, Russell and never tiring Alyssa, wow, I owe you lots of thanks for baking me up well into a nice pie".**



Macgeofrey is a pastor in Malawi's capital and recently teamed up with Pastor Henry Banda to put on a sports ministry seminar for a number of pastors in the city. The results of the seminar will be shared in the next News Brief.



On behalf of GSSM's staff and students I want to wish you and your family a very blessed and meaningful Easter season.

Thank you for your prayers and much-needed support that enables us to train, equip and send out more and more dedicated students into the harvest fields of our very needy world.

Blessings!
Russ Carr



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