

NEWS BRIEF

JESUS CHOSE 12 ORDINARY MEN

***To train....to equip...and then...
SEND out into a very dangerous world
to declare the Good News
to all who will listen.***



GUESS WHAT!!!

He still chooses unlikely men and women to represent Him.

- Take Jimmy for example. We mentioned him before. He is one of GSSM's graduates and lives in Uganda.
- Not long ago Jimmy was released from his job. "Didn't belong", one leader stated. "Wasn't very smart...not part of the group" others chimed in. "Most unlikely to succeed...in anything. "Who would possibly want him?" stated other leaders.

Jimmy, in tears, did the only thing he knew to do: he went to his knees.

- He no longer had a job.
- He was recently married and now his wife was expecting their first child.
- Jimmy and his wife lived in a slum in a tiny home that Jimmy built out of discarded scraps of wood and metal.
 - ✓ NO running water
 - ✓ NO electricity
 - ✓ NO bathroom or toilet just the public latrine down the path.



JIMMY

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While on his knees,

Jimmy once again surrendered his life to the Lord. ***“Here I am Lord, take me as I am, use me, send me wherever you wish for I am yours...I have nothing but myself to give to you”.***

In answer to Jimmy's prayer, the Lord directed him to a pair of slums in the shadow of the capital city, Kampala. When he approached the first imposing slum Jimmy cried out, ***“Now what, Lord?”***

The pair of slums to which this broken young man was being sent were principally populated by Muslims...not necessarily a place where Christians were welcome.

As Jimmy looked up as he approached the edge of the first slum, he spotted 5 boys kicking an old, battered soccer ball. Jimmy approached the boys and asked, “Do you fellows have a coach?” “NO”, they replied. “Would you like one?” “YES!”, they responded.

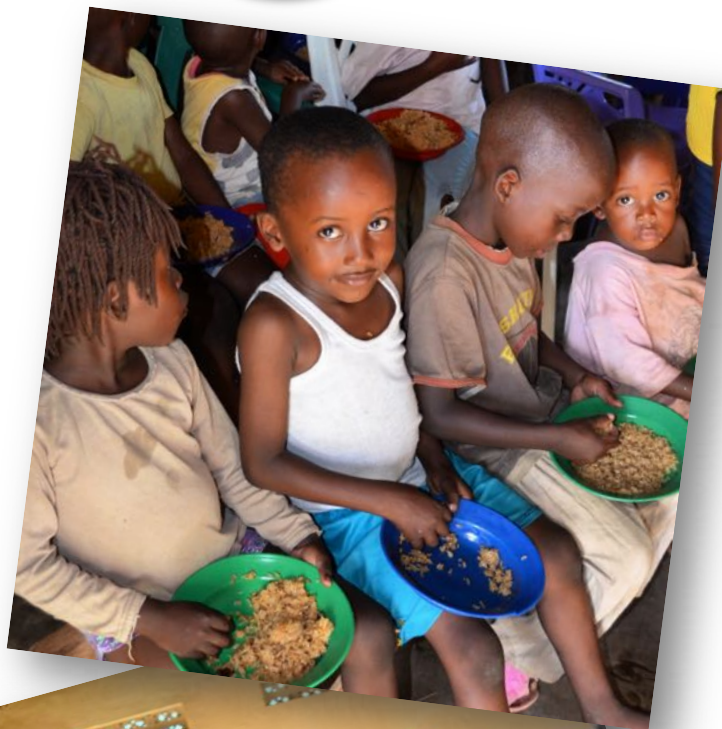
And that was the beginning. Soon the 5 boys became 10 and then 20 as this improbable miracle in the slums began to unfold.

Continue reading more about
this incredible man on page 3...



This unwanted young man, a slum resident himself, **poor beyond our understanding but rich in faith, initiated and is now running two of the most powerful slum programs I have ever witnessed:**

- 300 children are being fed
- Soccer leagues and other sports programs are in place and are touching the lives of large numbers of young people.
- Special soccer teams have been formed and trained to go into the city and other slums competing with numerous teams but most importantly competing for the souls of lost children and adults as they share their faith.
- A children's choir has also been formed and these young musicians go throughout the slums and into the city singing about Jesus and sharing His glorious message.
- Jimmy also initiated Sunday School services and now scores of children turn out each week and are being taught the essentials of being Christ followers.
- The numerous needs of the sick and elderly are also being addressed resulting in more lives being transformed.
- Incredibly the whole Muslim landscape in these two large slums is changing as the love of Christ is breaking apart the barriers of hate and mistrust.



Continued...

AND NOW, ANOTHER CHALLENGE



The slums where Jimmy works are filled with single moms who have been deserted by their husbands or have become widows due to the father dying of AIDS or other serious disease that run rampant in slum environments.

Many of these single mothers have been infected with AIDS and are dying. Because of the love Jimmy has shown to the children and the care that he has provided these dying women, they have pleaded with Jimmy to look after their children when they pass away. Many of these women are now Christ followers and will be welcomed into the arms of Jesus because this most unlikely servant surrendered his life to the Lord.

About **50 children** are now in line for Jimmy's care when these dying women pass into eternity.

So what is Jimmy to do? What would **YOU** do?



Jimmy did the only thing he knew to do: **got back on his knees**. He is asking the Lord to provide a **piece of land** where he can raise crops to feed his family and the orphans that will soon be arriving. He also wants to grow enough food to help feed many of the hungry children in the slums. In addition, Jimmy would like to build a simple home on the property for his family, a basic structure to care for the orphans and a storage shed to store supplies and tools.

This ALL seems impossible for an unwanted young man with failure written all over his face right?

WRONG! Nothing is impossible for God!

To conclude this long story, would you believe another miracle?

Larry and Sandie Leatherman, volunteer GSSM staff members, traveled to Uganda during the past 2 years to help evaluate GSSM students who had just completed our 18 month training program. While in Kampala, Jimmy, a GSSM graduate, invited the team from the U.S. to visit his work in the two slums and to observe first hand, the programs that he had initiated and now oversees. "I want you to see how everything I learned from GSSM is now at work".

Larry and Sandie, as well as the other team members, were deeply touched by their visit to Jimmy's slum. As a matter of fact, when the Leatherman's returned to their home in Northern California they were so excited about Jimmy's dream that they shared it with their friends...and shortly thereafter their church invited Larry and Sandie to share Jimmy's story.

Keep in mind that the Leatherman's church is relatively new and quite small. Nevertheless God spoke to the hearts of many in this little congregation and before you could say, "Praise the Lord", the burden to help Jimmy spread like wildfire. In a very short time money poured in and GSSM reported to the Leathermans that enough funds to buy some land are now in Jimmy's account. The process of identifying and purchasing the land is currently underway.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SIMPLE BUILDINGS NEEDED?

The Leatherman's church is considering **Phase 2** but would greatly appreciate any help from others who feel led to do so.

Personally, I cannot wait to see how God brings this impossible dream to fruition. **Remember, it all started with an unwanted young man who submitted his broken life to the Lord who, in turn, does the impossible by taking ordinary people and doing extraordinary things.**

Should you feel led to be part of helping Jimmy put together a simple farm, GSSM has established a special account for this purpose. Please note that 100% of all funds given to GSSM's designated projects go directly to the project specified.

Thank you for your prayers and much needed support of GSSM as we seek to identify and train more Jimmys to go into the harvest fields of our trouble world.

Blessings!
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