

News Brief

CHRISTMAS on an African ISLAND

NOVEMBER 2016

YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

No, it is not a resort. In fact, far from it.

Try swimming in poverty...forgotten...ignored...needing love from someone or just anyone who might really care.

Christmas? What's that? Just another day to somehow survive. No celebrations. No decorations. Nothing special. In fact, most people in these villages have never even heard about Christmas.

SURPRISE! GSSM's Christmas outreach is about to change all of that. **25 GSSM students and graduates** led by Barnabas Mwesiga, our African director and assisted by Joash, a pastor of a small church on the targeted Island will soon launch a convoy of canoe-like boats from the mainland of Uganda and head for Bussi Island two hours away. Bussi is part of the Sesse Island chain in Lake Victoria that stretches from Uganda to Tanzania.

The homemade, **canoe**-like boats will be stuffed with **Family Food Packs, Kid Kits**, sports equipment and enough food and soft drinks for the residents of **5 different forgotten villages** that are hidden in the coves and inlets of Bussi Island.





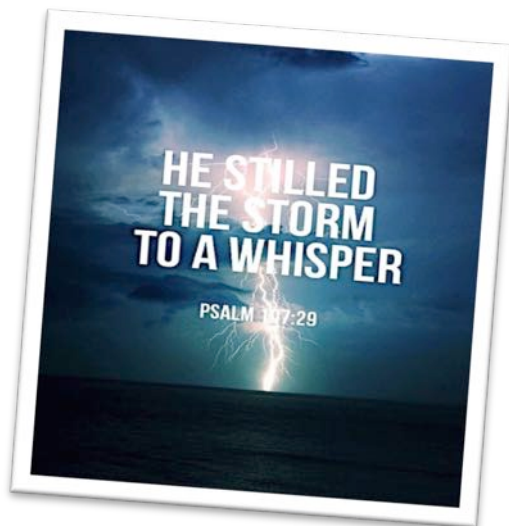
Can you imagine the shock
of seeing an armada of pencil thin boats suddenly appear in your hidden cove? Not only that but who are those guys waving their hands, yelling greetings and perhaps even singing!

Those “guys” are missionaries in training who are learning different ways of sharing the Gospel and who will soon be trudging through the harvest fields of our needy world.



Although the trip into Lake Victoria might sound

like a cakewalk to some, traveling to the Islands can be dangerous at times. Our courageous team needs your prayers for safe travel.



Storms can often come out of nowhere

and the lake can take on the likes of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde as the glass like surface suddenly churns up white caps, the sky darkens and fierce winds turn a calm , pleasant day into a turbulent and frightening scene. Gale force winds then bulldoze the rough water into huge swells that threaten to swamp your boat.

I know this to be a fact as several years ago

my small group nick-named the “twelve disciples” were returning from an Island outreach when a storm developed and before long we were crying out to the Lord like the disciples of old who were caught on the Sea of Galilee as a storm threatened to engulf them.





As our students and staff disembark they will pull their boats up on dry land, greet the people along with the elders who secretly knew they were coming and then these strangers will immediately spring into action.

With shovels, rakes, machetes and an assortment of tools they will **clean up the village**, open up clogged water/sewer ditches, repair some of the homes and help the elderly dig and clean up their small gardens.

In the afternoon a **soccer clinic will be held for the children**. This will be followed by a **soccer match** featuring GSSM students vs. the village F.C. After the game, Barnabas will present a new soccer ball for the children and a new ball for the village team much to the delight of the residents.

Then things really get exciting!

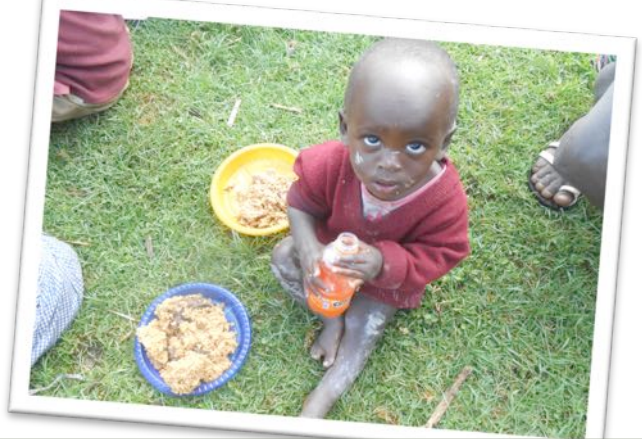
Family Food Packs and **Kids Kits** are distributed to the most needy. The aroma of delectable food begins to circulate through the village and then the **grand finale....The Christmas celebration begins**. Nothing like this has ever happened before. Wide-eyed children can't wait. A special dinner is served to all followed by a Christmas cake, something most of them have never tasted before. Then the **reason for the season...The Christmas story** is shared to all followed by a presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity to become part of God's family.



Follow-up by **Pastor Joash** will begin
Immediately and will continue throughout the weeks ahead.

How about that for a busy day!

And that is just day one. **Four** more villages to go!



As you can imagine this is a huge undertaking and we are going to need help. I believe we will see scores of people from these forgotten villages come to Christ because the Lord loves them so much that He put it into our hearts **“to GO and MAKE disciples” on Bussi island.**

We invite you to pray for this outreach and prayerfully consider helping if God so directs and enables you to do so.



**How can you help?
See the next page for details!**



Here is how to assist us:

1. **PRAY**

Prayer is always the most important ingredient of ministry.

2. **CONTRIBUTE**

- **Family Food Packs** – for the poorest of the poor.....**\$30 per pack**
 - Contains enough food to feed a family for 3-5 weeks
- **Kids Kits** – for children having the greatest needs.....**\$20 per pack**
 - Clothes, shoes, toy, sweet (candy), & children's Christian literature
- **Village Christmas Dinner and Celebration****\$10 per person**
 - Includes a complete meal, birthday cake, soft drinks & small gift.
- **Assistance for Participating Students**.....**\$100 per student**
 - Includes travel costs, food, lodging, GSSM shirt. Students involved in this outreach are from **KENYA (3), TANZANIA (2), GULU, UGANDA (5), MBARARA, UGANDA (4), KAMPALA, UGANDA (6), PLUS 4 GRADUATES & BARNABAS – Total of 25**



Thank you for your prayers and consideration to help us with this significant outreach and training experience. We simply cannot do it alone. It is a team effort. Therefore it is our prayer that many of you will join us in our effort to reach those who have never heard of, or experienced, God's extraordinary love, mercy and grace. And when it is all over, let the celebration really begin as new brothers and sisters are added to the Book of Life!

May you and your family have a wonderful and very meaningful CHRISTmas.

Sincerely, Russ Carr



Global School of Sports Ministry

P.O. Box 119 Monroe, VA 24574

(T) 434.929.5015 (F) 434.929.6211

E-mail: rcarr@globalssm.org Website: www.globalssm.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/globalssm.org