

News Brief

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



You have a little wood, some charcoal, a few large pots and the pastor of your small church asks you if you would cook a Christmas dinner for some guests coming from about five villages that are hidden in the coves of the Island you call home.

You have NO electricity, NO stoves, NO running water...and NO caterers. Just you and a few of your friends.



Then the BIG question:

“How many guest can we expect, Pastor?”

How many??? **Just over 300!!!!**

Silence floods the conversation...

Joash, the pastor, then explains...

“Barnabas, our good friend and his organization, Global School of Sports Ministry, will provide the food and a wonderful program. Some of Global’s students are coming to help. Maybe some of them can cook, too! Remember that you and your family are invited to the feast as well. We will have Matoke (an African staple), beans, rice, beef and some chicken, chipatis (tortilla-like bread), pineapple, bananas and to top it off, Barnabas is bringing some birthday cakes to honor our Lord. **Most importantly we will share the Christmas story and the Gospel with our neighbors on the Island.**”



And share they did.

Barnabas and **25 students** including some graduates of GSSM visited **5 villages** on *Bussi Island* providing **Family Food Packs** for the most needy, and distributing **Kids Kits** with clothes, shoes, sweets and a toy to the poorest of the poor children. Then the GSSM staff watched the people laugh, shout and cheer as **soccer matches** were played with the village team and children joined in the fun with games of their own. Afterwards they were rewarded with sodas and bottled water, something they rarely have, if at all. Earlier the **GSSM team of 25 cleaned up the village**, repaired homes of the elderly, helped dig gardens for those in need and ended the day by **inviting the village people to come for a Christmas dinner** at Pastor Joash’s church. And they came! **Over 300 walked to the church** and enjoyed a meal to remember. But most importantly many heard the Gospel for the first time. **When all was said and done, 151 precious people** on this island invited Christ into their lives and are now heaven-bound!



Overnight, Joash's small church nearly tripled in size.

This all happened because many of you cared enough to help, members of this unknown church were willing to do the work necessary and 25 GSSM students and graduates jumped in to assist and learn from this valuable experience as they obeyed Christ's command to **“GO and MAKE disciples...”**.

Thank you for your prayers and sacrificial giving that made it all possible.



IN OTHER NEWS

JIMMY'S CAMP

GSSM graduate, Jimmy Kalyango, of Kampala, Uganda was disappointed that only 50 slum children were able to go to his "camp" in Jinja, 60 miles away. However, nearly 300 children from Jinja joined Jimmy's 50 for 5 fun-filled days near the shore of Lake Victoria. They competed in soccer matches, played other games and listened intently during the coaches "time-out". Post-game discussions were held by Jimmy's slum kids, and when the 5 day camp concluded, **70 young people from Jinja invited Christ into their lives.**

One pastor with whom Jimmy visited was extremely happy with the camp program. The pastor only had 15 children in his church and when the 5-day camp ended his church was full of children eager to learn more about Christ. **The pastor may even enroll in GSSM's training program** in order to learn more about keeping and maintaining children in his church.



KENYA



Franklin Shelimba, GSSM graduate has initiated **kids soccer programs** and a program called **PrayFit** where he goes to different areas to do a special workout that includes prayer and the sharing of the Gospel.

As a former professional soccer player, Franklin is highly respected by the kids and the soccer community. To date **152 people have come to Christ** and Franklin is helping each one to get involved in a local evangelical church.

Looking ahead in the New Year, **Franklin has secured a small piece of land** where he will **develop year round sports programs for kids and adults**. He also is **collecting Christian books for a library** for people to come and study and at the same time have Bible studies. He also **plans to train carefully selected Christians in sports ministry** using GSSM materials and guidelines.

If that is not enough, Franklin **also plans to start an agricultural ministry** where he hopes to develop special farming techniques that will help those in need and that will also provide opportunities to share the Gospel.

MEXICO

Alyssa and Mike Mahone will be off to Mexico to evaluate 3 GSSM students who will graduate in February. All three are involved in church planting and are using sports ministry as a means to attract people, disciple them and use the new converts as a basis for initiating a new church.

AFRICA

Larry and Sandie Leatherman, GSSM's co-deans of the GSSM Faculty along with Global's Executive Director, Alyssa Carr Mahone, will be off to Uganda, Kenya and South Africa to evaluate graduating students in these 3 countries.

Also Barnabas Mwesiga and possibly Steve Burke will be traveling to Malawi and Zambia to administer final exams to students in these two countries. Assisting will be 2 GSSM graduates both of whom are pastors.



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Thank you!

On behalf of GSSM, I want to sincerely thank you for your much-needed support that is enabling us to prepare more and more students to go into the harvest fields of our troubled world.

Your PRAYERS and support are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Russ Carr