

M A R C H 2 0 1 7

News Brief

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY

WANT A DIFFERENT *EASTER* EXPERIENCE?

How about joining GSSM students and staff as they celebrate Christ's incredible love in 3 Ugandan Slums...Wakiso, Kawmokya and Kawempe.

Now the names of the 3 slums may not be easy to pronounce but I can assure you that each slum is filled with hundreds of real people who have nowhere else to live. This is home, like it or not.

In the U.S. we talk about unfortunate people living below the poverty line...and most of those caught in this web are truly in need. However, the people in the African slums where we are working would probably require a whole new definition of poverty to properly describe the circumstances under which these people attempt to survive.

FOR EXAMPLE, TRY....

- **NO entitlements**
- **NO electricity**
- **NO bathrooms...**go to the latrine down the path
- **NO running water...**do your best to find even some murky water...could be a short distance or up to 2 miles away. Be sure to carry a plastic 5 gallon "jerry" can to fill...when empty, not too bad. When full however, its tough to carry. Just ask the kids who are often assigned to this task.
- **Clean Clothes? Forget it.** You just have one set for daily use...and you wear the same clothes at night...tattered & dirty.



Got the picture?

Come along now. Sorry no Easter brunch or egg hunts are on the agenda. Our first stop will be a challenge.

You could be assigned to some of our students and staff in a clean-up exercise.

If you are one of the unfortunate ones you will be a part of GSSM's team assigned to clean out the ditches that run through the slums. Runoff water from the rains that occasionally come mix with the sewage and other debris that fill these ditches. Unfortunately they tend to jam and back up creating a very pungent odor that most people in their right minds find quite unpleasant.

Some of the residents hope for a good rain to wash some of the contents of the ditches downstream. On the other hand if it rains too hard their homes will flood and that will result in other challenges. Either way it is not pleasant.

Of course there is lots of trash of all descriptions to pick up and hopefully keep out of ditches or blowing into your home when the wind picks up.

However, it is not all grim.

Soon we will be playing some games with the children on a patch of dirt that we did our best to clear of broken glass, rusty nails and other objects that threaten the feet of barefoot children. Following some fun activities on the patch of dirt some soccer matches are scheduled in the afternoon which will draw hundreds of spectators. After all you don't have to pay to watch these games...it's free! And besides what else is there to do?





In the meantime some of you might be helping a few of our staff along with Jimmy & Barnabas who are overseeing another activity..

These men and some of the students are quietly delivering some Food Packs and some clothing to the most needy in the 3 slums. If you ever wanted to see real tears of joy sprinkled with a number of genuine praises to God, you will want to be part of this group.



AND GUESS WHAT?

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

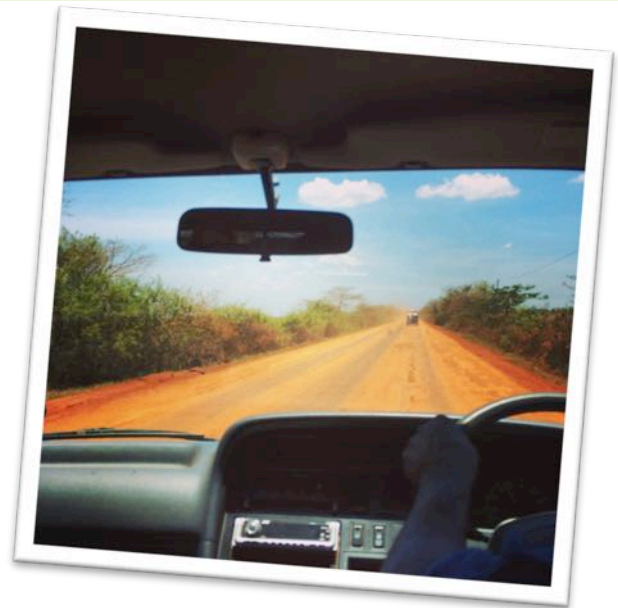
Some of GSSM's students are accompanying Jimmy's slum children's choir as they meander through the slums singing beautiful songs of God's love, grace and Mercy.

The people stop everything and listen. In between the songs the children talk about being "saved and how Jesus can make a difference in ones life". Some of GSSM students join in and explain the Gospel. As all of this takes place, the frowns that greeted our group have turned to smiles as they observe these incredible children who have found joy, peace and happiness because Jesus loved them so much that He went to a cross to pay the price of redemption even for the most vile of sinners. Why this is enough to cause one to dance...and the children do exactly that as they continue their expression of how much Jesus means to them. It is a heart thing and you can tell it is genuine, not just part of a program.

Well, are you tired yet?

Its time to jump into GSSM's van...

not back to the hotel, but rather on to Gulu for one more opportunity to share the Easter message. It's about a 5-6 hour drive on a bumpy, somewhat dusty road but we will stop for a quick bite enroute. Sorry, not at a restaurant. Better yet you are in for a treat! We will enjoy one of Barnabas' famous picnic lunches served from the back of the van and possibly overlooking the Nile River as we park in a clearing just after we cross a long bridge.



Moments after we stop and begin to consume the delicious food,

a family of baboons arrive and seek to join our luncheon. A banana or two keeps them at bay but soon it seems wise to drive on and finish our lunch at another spot. When we arrive in Gulu we will do much of the same in one of the villages that dot the landscape of Northern Uganda. The needs are enormous.

Well, I think you get the picture.

Easter is a bit different in the slums and many of the villages in Africa. *No* Easter baskets, *no* bunnies covered with chocolate, *no* spongy marshmallow chicks to consume and certainly *no* special meal to celebrate a very important day that is so meaningful to all of us who are followers of Christ.



Although you probably can't go to Africa this Easter perhaps you can join us on another occasion.

For now, how about **praying about GSSM's outreach** and possibly helping us to **provide some used clothing**, some **shoes** or even a blanket or **other needed items** for the children who rejoice over even the simplest of things.

Maybe you would like to help with a **Food Pack** for some of the neediest families who have no idea where their next meal is coming from.

Or perhaps you would consider helping one of our GSSM students to get their feet wet and their hands dirty by participating in the various GSSM outreaches designed to help them meet their practicum requirement and provide them with new ideas for their own ministry.

In addition you might consider helping Jimmy buy some special clothing for his children's choir. Perhaps a T-shirt or some look-a-like clothing to give them some identity. Nothing fancy, just something that will make the children feel special when they perform for others.



Thank you...

for considering these requests. *Should the Lord lay any of this on your heart and enable you,* please let us know what your wishes are and **we will put 100% of your gifts to work as you designate.**

Thanks again for caring. Remember that **prayer** is the single most important ingredient. We deeply appreciate your support and concern for GSSM and our training program. **Have a blessed Easter!**

Blessings!

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