

NEWS BRIEF

GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY

APRIL/MAY 2017

What happens when you go to plant churches and something else breaks through the soil instead?

TAKE BAJA, MEXICO FOR EXAMPLE....

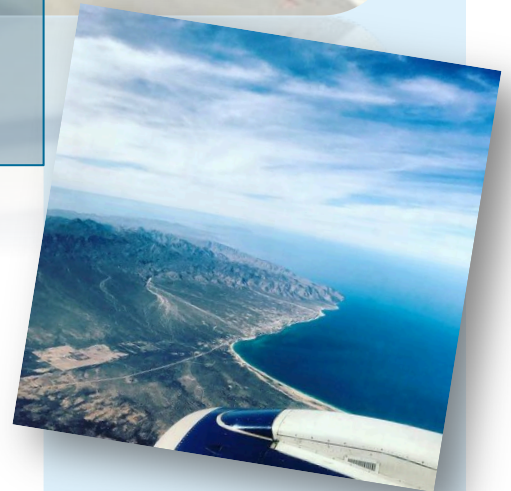
Baja is a land of beautiful beaches, resorts, good fishing and lots of friendly people. As you look more closely however, a dark cloud rolls in raining poverty, kidnappings, armed robberies and fear of drug lords making it hard to live a quiet, peaceful life when the elements of sin dance all around you.

Look on a map of Mexico and you will see a finger of land that separates the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. The two bodies of water meet at the southern tip of Baja and then the Pacific swallows up the Gulf's water and it becomes one.

The greatest need in this beautiful land peppered by sin is to know the love of Christ and the peace that only He can bring. This is especially true when the storms of life threaten to destroy even the best of people.

And this brings us back to planting Bible - believing churches, which is one of the antidotes to Satan's stronghold on those searching for the truth and real answers to the puzzle of life.

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Three recent GSSM graduates and their families have been called to battle the enemy for the salvation of precious lives in this beautiful but sin-infested region.



The mission group to which our graduates belong came to Baja to plant churches. But something happened to our 3 graduates as they looked for ways to accomplish their goal. As they continued to pray about the difficult challenges before them, the idea using sports as a tool to reach those who were lost came to mind. As they searched the internet, GSSM's training program popped up like a Jack in the Box. In a very short time the three were enrolled as students of GSSM. It did not take long for the instructors assigned to the Baja students to realize that the three were not just outstanding students but had a depth of commitment that truly excites all of us at Global.



Recently GSSM's Executive Director, Alyssa Mahone and her husband Mike, traveled to Baja to administer oral and written final exams and to evaluate the sports ministry programs that have been initiated. Although GSSM grades on a pass/fail basis, Alyssa reported that each of the Baja students would deserve an A+ should we be using a traditional grading system.

Planting seeds that will grow into open doors to share the Gospel is not an easy task.

First you must plow the ground, cultivate the soil, plant the seeds, water them and battle the weeds that compete for the space you worked so hard to provide. Then, with God's blessings, the harvest will arrive and rejoicing will begin.

Some of the seeds in Baja that are already sprouting will ultimately pave the way for tomorrow's harvest. Our graduates are working hard at building relationships, developing trust and breaking down barriers as they use the following stepping-stones:

- A basketball club they established meets 3 times a week for ages 12-18+
- Another basketball club, ages 6-11 meets once a week.
- Every Saturday evening the 3 graduates sponsor a youth night that features a number of activities at their "Transformato" Centre.
- ESL classes have been offered in the past and may resume again in the future.
- A Christian Life Coach uses the graduates Youth Centre to connect with and help troubled youth.
- Three weeks of sports camps are held in the summer and sometimes during school breaks.
- Community outreach events are often held in the Centre in the evenings.
- Bible Study/discussion is held every Saturday an hour before youth night.





Please join with us in prayer for these dedicated individuals as they devote their lives to proclaiming the Good News in Baja and beyond.

Can't you just see love seeping through the cracks in the barriers that Satan has put up to thwart the grace, mercy and love of Jesus? For it is through His love and the shedding of His blood that will wash away the sins of those who cry out to be bathed in His redemptive shower.

IN OTHER NEWS

▪ Jimmy's Farm Project - Uganda

After a careful search and hours of negotiation, GSSM graduate Jimmy Kalyango and his mentor, Barnabas Mwesiga, located 2 acres of additional land which they were able to purchase. This land will be used to produce crops to provide food for over 300 children that Jimmy feeds from the 3 large slums he oversees. In addition Jimmy is hopeful that this small farm will also produce enough cash crops that will help support his ministry. An update and photos will follow soon.



- **Several Tanzanian students** who recently enrolled in GSSM's training program are already showing promising signs of becoming outstanding leaders and could potentially become future trainers of others in Tanzania and beyond. A number of other pastors and youth leaders are currently on a waiting list to enroll in GSSM's next term.



“IN OTHER NEWS” CONTINUED



- **A Liberian graduate and pastor** in Monrovia, Liberia just recently completed GSSM's course of study with honors and has already expressed a desire to train others in his beleaguered country. Pastor Morris oversees a large church in the capital, teaches in a seminary and belongs to a Liberian mission organization that has a strong heartbeat to reach their country for Christ in addition to going beyond their borders to proclaim the Gospel. GSSM will help supply the necessary textbooks, teacher handbooks and other training materials as supplies are available.



- **Another GSSM graduate working Northern Uganda** sent his annual report for our review and it was absolutely incredible. This fired-up young man has been involved in church planting, counseling traumatized people, conducting sports ministry programs touching scores of people with the Gospel and much more. He is another outstanding candidate who could become a GSSM volunteer instructor who will train others in a very needy region of Uganda.

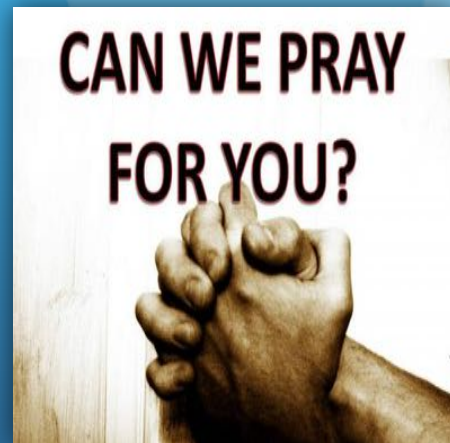
- **Results from a major Easter outreach** involving a large number of GSSM students and graduates will be available in our next newsletter. Most of our staff and volunteers cannot wait to see how our students performed in their required practicum and are also praying that many responded to the Gospel during this special outreach.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Finally, please let us know of any prayers requests that you might have. We want to support you in every way we possibly can. My wife, Sue, (& Alyssa's mom) serves as our key prayer warrior in spite of being sidelined from a pair of battles with cancer. Although fragile and quite limited in her activities she faithfully prays each morning for a number of people facing difficult challenges. In addition the rest of us at GSSM also pray and count it as a real privilege to serve in this way.

You can send in your prayer requests through a number of avenues: Back of the enclosed response card, on our website: www.globalssm.org/prayer-request or e-mail us at contact@globalssm.org.



Finally on behalf of the entire GSSM family of students and staff, thank you for your prayers and much-needed support that allows us to train, equip and send scores of dedicated men and women into the harvest fields of our needy world. We praise God for your help and encouragement and trust the Lord will abundantly shower you with His blessings.

Blessings!

Russ Carr & Alyssa Carr Mahone
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