



NEWS



BRIEF

Global School of Sports Ministry

June/July 2017

Does the acronym **SADC** mean anything to you?

For most of you, probably not.

If you were not so busy I would like to go back in time to my old teaching days and ask you to take a wild guess or two and assign a word to each of the four letters. Then we would find out how close you were...or perhaps how distant!

But alas, most people don't have much time these days to just have fun. Our society demands instant everything. Instant meals, instant communication, instant responses...well, you know the situation. We are all surrounded by it like it or not.

Unfortunately stress soon drowns some people when immediate demands at one point overtake them as they attempt to swim against the tidal wave of responsibility that threatens their ability to stay afloat.



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At this point I think our African friends might just have an antidote for this disease that is spreading its tentacles everywhere.

They have a saying, which tends to convict me every time I hear it: **“Americans watch the time, Africans have the time”**.

The Scriptures tell us to *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10). I must confess it is hard for me and perhaps for many of you to find the time to be quiet...to be still and listen to the Lord...especially when our “to do” list rings in our ears and rattles our brain. Nevertheless I am making a concerted effort to make the time to be still and know that He is God. And I would greatly encourage you to consider this challenge as well.

**Now what does all of this have to do with SADC?
And what do the letters stand for?**



S = Southern

A = African

D = Development

C = Community



Now for the exciting part:

Someone on bended knee in a quiet place felt burdened to take the Good News to the SADC region of Africa. Actually there were two someones. Two pastors, two GSSM graduates, both have significant contacts in the SADC region who could, when properly trained, reach hundreds of people for Christ. The SADC region consists of 15 countries and these two men are determined to go to 13 of these nations and equip their friends to “go and make disciples...”. These two pastors will soon be off to country #2 on their list. Earlier they were in Tanzania and signed up several leaders who are now enrolled in GSSM’s training program.

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Country #2 BOTSWANA

By the end of July we are praying that the Lord will move into the hearts of dozens of pastors and youth leaders in Botswana and more in Tanzania to enroll in GSSM's next term beginning October 1, 2017.

These two pastors from Malawi have such a passion to reach each of the South African countries where they have key contacts that they proposed to travel to a new country each month until they had gone to all of the 13 nations they have targeted.

However, this is not the place for a blitzkrieg tactic that moves at lightning speed to conquer a nation. No, the pace must be slow, deliberate and baptized in prayer. We must not run ahead of the Lord. Relationships must be nurtured, concerns eradicated and confidence instilled as these potential workers are challenged to go into the harvest fields of a world seething with hatred and violence.

And so, GSSM with an army of two and a third possible recruit from the U.S., will slowly continue our march through the SADC region. Armed only with a strong faith that God will go before us, open the right doors and bring those students to us who He has already chosen to declare His incredible Gospel to those in Southern Africa who are in great need of the Saviour.



Thank you for praying for this venture

Thank you for your encouraging support. Thank you for your love that stretches across the ocean and touches the lives of many who have lost hope and are giving up because no one seems to care. **We do care and we can't wait to see how God transforms hundreds of lives by using GSSM graduates** who are willing to move into regions of our world smothered by darkness and all forms of evil.

Your prayers and whatever help you feel led to provide will make a difference and enable many of our graduates who are willing to risk their lives to break through the forces of darkness and snatch those who God has chosen from the clutches of Satan's embrace. To God be the glory!



IN OTHER NEWS...

- **LIBERIA**, Pastor Wellington Morris, GSSM graduate, is proposing a partnership with GSSM which he and his colleagues would like to begin to identify and train students in their own country and then move into a number of West African nations in order to unleash even more well-trained sports ministers to reach those in desperate need of our Lord. GSSM's next News Brief will feature this exciting development.

- **GSSM's Co-Deans of Faculty**

Larry & Sandie Leatherman are busy recruiting and training additional volunteer faculty members for a potential avalanche of new students who want to enroll in GSSM's next term beginning on October 1, 2017.

Larry was a former player and captain on Russ Carr's Westmont College soccer team. Larry went on to serve as a pastor, teacher and coach for many years before retiring. His wife, Sandie, is an outstanding athlete and teacher as well. Both Larry & Sandie were named on separate occasions, teachers of the year in the Truckee, California School District.

We are so pleased to have Larry & Sandie as part of our leadership team. Both incidentally, are volunteers and help GSSM to maintain a very frugal budget.



- **Next Evaluation Trip** will take place in late summer as the Leatherman's along with Executive Director, Alyssa Mahone, will travel to Uganda & Kenya to evaluate GSSM students who are completing their studies and are set to graduate. The Leatherman's and Alyssa will administer written and oral final exams, will visit and evaluate the sports ministry programs started by the students through their local church and assuming all goes well, will award diplomas to the graduating students at a church service and provide each one with a sports ministry kit containing a study Bible, discipleship materials, New Testaments, Gospels of John for new believers, sports tracts, a soccer ball, shirt, whistle and a whole lot more.



- **Steve Burke, GSSM leadership team member**, is seriously praying about overseeing the SADC region of Africa. This will include oversight of 15 or more countries and working with the two pastors from Malawi who will serve as GSSM instructors training others to be effective sports ministers. Pray for Steve and his wife Sharon as this will be a significant step in reaching hundreds of very needy people with the message of hope that only Christ can deliver.

Steve incidentally, has traveled extensively with Russ to Africa and additional countries and has the passion to introduce others to Christ. He is a Hall of Fame soccer coach at Judson University, served as Athletic Director for many years and has led his team to numerous championships along the way.

Thank you again for your prayers and much needed support as God leads and enables you. Please do not hesitate to send us your prayer requests.

We stand ready to help in any way we can.

Blessings! Russ Carr, President & Alyssa Carr Mahone, Executive Director