

What's New at CSRSM

October 2019

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Equipping local churches to change lives through Sports, Recreation & Fitness.

From Our Executive Director

The CSRSM Board of Trustees met September 18-19 to formulate plans for the future. God has blessed us greatly during these past two years of reinvention and transition.

Our meeting started with a devotion from Luke 9:62, "But Jesus told him, 'Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.'" We discussed the need to look ahead at how God will direct and use CSRSM rather than some of the struggles we faced the past two years.

Our discussions centered around a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Our Strengths include our resource development of books, blogs, and video presentations through Overwhelming Victory Press and Overwhelming Victory Flix. Another strength is our work around the world with international ministries. We discovered a weakness in the recruitment of various partnerships. The board voted to invite partnering through giving of finances and time. Some opportunities include developing resources for volunteer sport, recreation, and fitness leaders. The main threat we see is in our finances and funding.

Please consider partnering with us in prayer and financially as we continue to develop resources and create relationships around the world through sports, recreation, and fitness ministries.

- David Waddell

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We have a new address!

Please make sure to send all mail to CSRSM:
PO Box 9110, Canton, Ohio 44711

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Help Us Go Digital!

Please register your email address on CSRSM.org by creating an account with us, completing the included communication card or by emailing manager.csrsm@gmail.com your email for future correspondence. You can also give online at **CSRSM.org/donate** and create an account.

From Our International Director

Recently, I had the chance to work in Southern Asia and partner with a ministry called the Life Giving Network (LGN). Their strategy is to train local pastors and church planters on relevant topics that help them develop, grow, and multiply their ministries. Sixty were identified as Master Trainers, and it was these top 60 who I equipped to go and train their own 12-13 disciples. That's approximately 1,250 leaders in total!

During the last five years, the fruit of this 2 Timothy 2:2 strategy-'These things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who are then able to teach others.'- speaks for itself. Throughout the country, 120,000 have placed their faith in Jesus; 17,000 have been baptized; 55,000 leaders have been trained, and 14,000 new fellowships (house churches and other) have been started.

Amazing!! After the training, I traveled to encourage and mentor some of the trainers in their own communities. In one city and surrounding villages, they organized their first sports ministry activities. A soccer Jamboree was sponsored by 15 churches where 12 teams competed. Over 400 people came out, and each team received prayer and heard testimonies and sports parables during half-time. Pastors and church leaders were blown away by the experience. The next day, a field hockey game was organized between local village teams. Again at half-time, the teams received prayer and heard sports parables. Due to rainy weather, only 50-60 people participated. At the conclusion of the games, I was able to present live chicken 'trophies' to both teams... I'm not exactly sure how best to divide up one live chicken among 15 players other than to make soup, but regardless, they were very excited and thankful.

The follow-up is ongoing as each church has identified leaders from their congregations who will lead local sports ministries to serve their communities. We expect that sports ministry will allow them to exponentially increase their impact for Jesus in the coming years. Please pray that it will be so.

In spite of the many challenges that the believers face on a daily basis as the minority in this country, Jesus is very much alive and working! Sports, recreation, and fitness is such a relevant tool that easily allows relationships to be built and the Gospel to be shared.

Praise God for all that He has done and is doing!!
-P.F. Meyers

Updates from Across the World

- ★ **Yolanda in the Cayman Islands**- This year's 2019 Cayman Church Sports Outreach 8 A-Side tournament in August was a success. Worship, prayer and fellowship were incorporated during half-times and in between games. Six teams participated this year that were a combination of church members and friends within the community. The teams had such a great time that they are asking to do it again, including teams that were not even part of the event! CCSO anticipates 12 teams will participate in the next tournament.



Fellowship was established beyond the playing fields including more commitment in attending church services and more pastors supporting and embracing Sports Ministry. One church alone shared that three different families have now committed to attending church that weren't before. CCSO can't wait to see what God has for them next.

- ★ **Henry in Malawi**- In August, CSRM GNPs Henry Banda and James Mhango, in partnership with a local church, organized a two day church sports leaders seminar at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in central Malawi where there is huge potential to share the Gospel. The camp harbors 40,000 refugees from different countries. They faced two challenges: Needing resources like Swahili/English Bibles and having enough Evangelism and discipleship materials. Despite the challenges, the seminar drew 48 participants from 17 different churches. Each participant was trained on incorporating sports into church evangelism and discipleship. Another sports outreach training event at the camp, this like one, is already in the works.



- ★ **"George" in S. Asia**- Thanks to all of you who have been praying for "George's" family. George and his family received their visas, which is great news! They will all have 2-3 year visas, and the process will be complete once they have a country ID. Please keep praying for their kids' admission into school, earning a driving license and above all for "George" to be sensitive to the opportunities to serve Him.

- ★ **Kennedy in Kenya**- Kennedy recently returned from a sports ministry mission trip in Congo with 50 participants. He commented "Pray that God will move in the lives of the young people there." He is also planning a sports ministry training event in Khartoum, Sudan. Prayers and funding are needed.

Be sure to explore all of our NEW webpages about these GNPs' ministries and others for ministry updates and current prayer requests at CSRM.org/global-network-partners and on **Facebook**.

CSRM Resources Report

★ **Overwhelming Victory Press**

- The rough draft of the fourth book in the Institutes of Sports Outreach Series, *The Saving of Sports Ministry: The Soteriology of Sports Outreach*, has been completed and entered into the editing phase with an anticipated publishing date of early 2020.
- Three other books, *Maintaining Pace* by Bryan Mason, *Rugged Discipleship* by Steve Conner & *Ministry of the Shoe* by P.F. Meyers are also in the works.
- Check out and order all of the books in this series along with other books authored by CSRM's ministry partners at csmr.org/store.
- Learn more about OVP and how to become a sponsor at CSRM.org/overwhelming-victory-press

★ **Overwhelming Victory Flix**

- Three featured podcast series were aired over the summer. They discussed integrating youth sports and children's ministry in a local church, showed how Martial Arts for the local church featured a unique outreach ministry model and provided insights on how to maximize social media in promoting a congregation's SR&F outreach ministry.
- **Visit CSRM's Youtube channel**, *The Association of Church Sports & Recreation Ministries*, to watch these videos and more!

OVERWHELMING
Victory
PRESS
Book Spotlight

Coming
Early
2020

The Saving of Sports Ministry: The Soteriology of Sports Outreach

The fourth book in the Institutes of Sports Outreach Series, this upcoming book may well be the most important Dr. Linville has yet composed. Dr. Linville challenges churches, ministries and missions to evaluate their Success Statistics. By that, he calls into question how many true Disciples of Jesus each church and ministry are "making." This book challenges the Sports Outreach Community to truly accomplish The Great Commission mandate...even in this generation!

Pre-order your copy today!

Visit CSRM.org/store
to pre-order this book
and purchase many more!

They Need Your Help

Persecuted Church & Giving Tuesday

It's great to share stories of our GNPs all over the world, but we also have GNPs in countries where Christians are still persecuted and have to remain secretive about their faith. These partners are spreading the Gospel in hostile places and need your help and prayer. November 3rd is Persecuted Church Sunday. Please help GNPs like "George", "George Jr." and the ministries in Northern Africa and South Asia who are spreading the Gospel. The opportunity to assist in their utilization of sports, recreation, and fitness programs to reach and disciple people for Jesus is in our hands.

Visit CSRM.org/donate to get started. Choose the ministry or GNP from the drop-down Campaign menu, and fill in the remaining boxes. You can even set it up as a recurring donation. Thank you for your support!

#GIVINGTUESDAY

#GivingTuesday encourages giving and generosity to balance out the madness of Black Friday and Cyber Monday during the holiday season. Be on the lookout for the Giving Tuesday email that will be coming to you soon with information on how you can help.