

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT MINISTRIES INC. NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023

PRISON MINISTRY, OHIO

MASSEY & CARMINE COUNTRY

APRIL GOSPEL TRICK SHOT

CALENDAR



1 PRISON MINISTRY OHIO

Prison Outreach in Ohio March 2023

A GTS team of Phil Ball, Carmen Stura, Tom “Dr.Cue” Rossman and Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch converged on The Trumbull Correctional Institution for Prison Fellowship's "Hope Event". Phil and Carmen brought the portable pool table from New Jersey, Tom drove from Indianapolis and Jason came down from Michigan.

Phil and Carmen expertly moved the table into the facility and made the long trek across the courtyard to the Gymnasium. The portable pool table proved to be up for the challenge again, a testament to Devra and Fred and the great job producing these mobile ministry tools. Incidentally, several people commented on the workmanship of the table! The table was set up and leveled by Phil and Jason.

There were two shows with approximately 75 attendees at each one. The presentation started with prayer from field director and event coordinator Lucien Pruszyński followed by Christian rapper Chris Maynor who rapped and gave his testimony about his time growing up, his sincerity rang true with the inmates.

Lucien then introduced Tom, Jason, Phil and Carmen. Tom Rossman started the GTS show talking about influences in our lives and the choices we make. Jason came out and performed three obstacle shots calling us to push through the negativity in our lives. Tom again came to the table talking about pride and humbleness before God.

Jason finished with a story about us all having one more move in life, a lesson learned from a painting titled Checkmate where a King and Satan were sitting at a chess match. The lesson is that we are never at Checkmate in life until the day we die. We always have one more move to accept Jesus and have Him show us our next step in any life situation. Jason then shared his testimony about losing his wife and coming full circle, as illustrated with the “Rise Up” shot. To conclude, Jason sang his original song “He’s The Way” that illustrates that no matter what, God can bring us back to Him because HE IS THE WAY.



Many of the inmates were truly engaged when hearing the gospel message through seeing Tom and Jason perform their shots on the pool table. You could see their reactions to the message of salvation and the hope it brings. After each GTS show, two local pastors gave a short sermon on the gospel and presented an opportunity to confess their sins and ask Jesus to be their savior. Several of the inmates came forward to talk to the entire team after each presentation to express their gratitude about hearing the gospel.

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MASSEY & CARMINE

Mike Massey & Carmine Country - Los Angeles 2023

Mike Massey spent the month of March out in California working with GTS partner John English at the Good Times Family Billiards and working with the California USA Pool League owned by John and Jeannie English.



On March 12th Mike appeared on Carmine's Country Corner's live Facebook page and sang six of his Country Gospel billiard songs with the band and shared more of his testimony. Featured as a theme song, Mike performed one of his most iconic songs called "In Heaven it's impossible to lose". This song was dedicated to Africa and was shared on numerous social media platforms throughout the continent of Africa.



[\(Click to Watch\)](#)



In Heaven, It's Impossible to Lose

3

APRIL GOSPEL TRICK SHOT

The “Peter in Prison” Gospel Trick Shot.

History of the Trick Shot:

This shot was originally invented by Wayne Parker around 2008 in a billiard room called Polley’s Pool and Snooker in Pretoria, South Africa. This shot was originally done on the UK 7-foot table, but is now also done on the 9-foot table. There are different variations of the shot. The shot was originally named the “Parker Pot”. This particular variation involves the object ball being made into the side pocket.

GTS Name and Why: The GTS name for this variation is called the “Peter in Prison” Gospel Trick Shot. In the Bible, in Acts chapter 12, we find the story of Peter who was arrested and thrown into prison and an angel was sent to break Peter out of prison. The cue ball in this shot represents the angel of the Lord, the 8-ball is Peter, the surrounding balls is the prison that Peter was trapped in, and the side pocket represents freedom into which Peter escapes.

Cue Ball Placement: The cue ball is placed about one and a half to two diamonds away from the short rail, as shown in the diagram, and about the same distance from the long rail as the 8-ball is from the side pocket.

Object Ball(s) Placement: The 8-ball is about two balls away from the side pocket and with its right edge in line with the left point of the side pocket as shown in the diagram. The object ball to the right of the 8-ball is about a quarter inch away from the 8-ball and ever so slightly further from the side pocket than the 8-ball (about 2-3 mm). The surrounding object balls can be placed all around the 8-ball, as indicated in the diagram, to make the 8-ball look like it is completely trapped. Ensure that there is enough space to the left of the 8-ball for the cue ball to pass through to the 8-ball. The two object balls closest to the side pocket need to be covering the side pocket and not be too close to the 8-ball, so that the 8-ball has enough room to make it over into the side pocket.

[Click to watch Video](#)



“... it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ...”

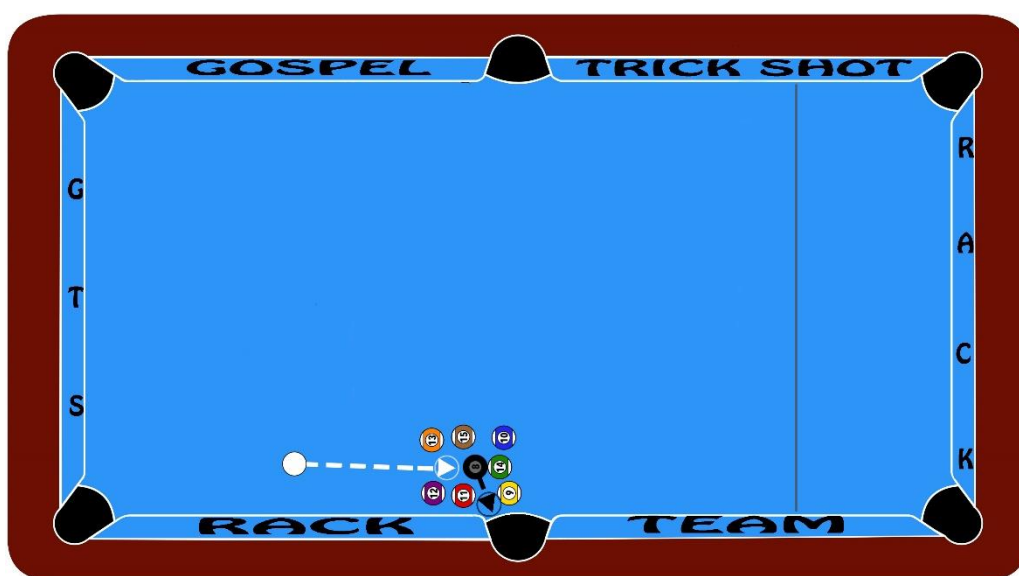
- Philippians 1:13

...continued

Objective: The 8-ball is surrounded by obstacle balls near the side pocket. The 8-ball represents Peter in the Bible after he was arrested and locked up in prison. The surrounding balls represent the prison which Peter was in. The cue ball represents the angel who came and struck Peter to wake him up and miraculously break him out of prison. The pocket into which the 8-ball is made represents Peter's freedom. The objective of the shot is to make the 8-ball into the side pocket. Jump the cue ball into the 8-ball causing the 8-ball to also jump and be deflected off the object ball and then over the side pocket object balls, so that the 8-ball is made in the side pocket.

Special Notes: The key to this shot is the amount of power used to strike the cue ball. It will take some practice to perfect this. Playing about one tip of draw on this shot will also assist in the cue ball remaining on the table after the shot. The butt end of the cue should be raised about 10-15 degrees for this shot. If the 8-ball does not jump enough to make it over the side pocket object balls, you do not have to adjust the height of the butt end of the cue, but rather strike the cue ball with a little more power.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: After setting this shot up and explaining to the crowd that the 8-ball will be made into the side pocket, there's normally a bit of a chuckle of laughter in disbelief, as the 8-ball seems completely trapped by the surrounding balls. Lining up for the shot, the room will usually become dead quiet. Once the cue ball is struck and the 8-ball pops over the obstacles balls into the side pocket, expect the crowd to suddenly break the silence and raise the roof with applause and cheering! This shot has not been seen in too many places around the world so many people would not know what to expect from this shot. Be sure to celebrate with the cheering of the crowd, telling them that if anyone is still believing God for a breakthrough, they must not give up, keep trusting God and keep praying as their breakthrough is coming, because God is able!



“We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed!”

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

GTS CALENDAR

GTS Calendar 2023: changes and additions are forthcoming:

>**3/28/23 – 3/30/23** – Mike Massey, Steve Lillis, and John English at the Annual BCA Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

>**3/31/23 – 4/6/23** – Mike Massey and Steve Lillis in Phoenix, Arizona for GTS Shows in Sun City and Glendale, AZ partnering with churches and senior centers.

>**4/13/23 – 4/16/23** – Mike Massey, Steve Lillis, and Brian Pauley at the Hopkins Super Billiards Expo at the Valley Forge Convention Center in Valley Forge, PA partnering with various billiard industry friends and partners.

>**May 2023 (TBD)** – First Annual S.A. National Artistic Pool Championship and a Gospel Trick Shot show in South Africa with GTS partner Wayne Parker of Johannesburg, South Africa helping to organize alongside of other billiard vendors and competitions.

>**Spring and Summer 2023 (TBD)** – GTS portable pool table tour begins with summer camps, racetracks, parks, and prisons.

>**7/15/23 – 7/16/23 – 25th Anniversary Gospel Trick Shot Banquet** during the Hawthorne Gospel Church Summer Bible Conference mission focus weekend with a Saturday night banquet and Sunday morning and evening services with GTS team.

>**10/16/23 - 10/23/23 (TBD)** – The Blackball Hawley Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa working with GTS team leader Wayne Parker as coach and manager.

>**10/30/23 – 11/4/23** – International 9-Ball Open at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA with a GTS booth and Bible studies alongside other billiard events.

>**GTS World Tour 2023 and beyond (TBD)** – invitations from ministries and billiard federations to Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Japan, Indonesia, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi.

For **donations**, please send your tax-deductible **check** made payable to:

GTS, P.O. Box 313, Hawthorne, NJ 07507.

For a specific outreach put the name in **memo section** of the check or PayPal text box.



Thank you for your support,

Steve Lillis
President and Founder
www.gospeltrickshot.org



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