

# GOSPEL TRICK SHOT MINISTRIES INC. NEWSLETTER



MAY 2023

GTS 25th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

AFRICA, ZAMBIA, SOUTH AFRICA

LAS VEGAS, ARIZONA

PENNSYLVANIA

& MORE



# 1 GTS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## Gospel Trick Shot 25th Anniversary Celebration Banquet July 15, 2023

The incorporation of Gospel Trick Shot Ministries Inc. (GTS) officially took place on June 8, 1998. Steve Lillis was called in 1996 after much prayer and counsel to do Gospel Trick Shots in and around Northern New Jersey and finally in 1998 made the decision, with help from members of the Hawthorne Gospel Church (HGC), to incorporate and expand nationally and eventually worldwide. During the summer of 1998 as part of the HGC Summer Bible Conference, Steve did a special GTS show with music in the HGC Pavilion to celebrate the incorporation. That event was well attended by members of the Hawthorne Gospel Church and the surrounding community. Now 25 years later in that same HGC Pavilion as part of the 2023 HGC Summer Bible Conference and a mission focus weekend on Saturday July 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm, we will have a full course dinner banquet with music, videos and speakers to celebrate 25 years of GTS ministry around the world to more than 30 countries and most states in the USA!



*Hawthorne*  
GOSPEL CHURCH

Please come and celebrate with us! Space is limited so mark your calendar and please register to reserve your spot so we can plan our food count.



Click on the link below, and then scroll down and click on the billiard balls to register:

<https://hawthornegospel.churchcenter.com/registrations>

If link does not work, type it directly into your web browser.

We are also looking for corporate sponsors to purchase tables at \$400 each to help with the cost of the banquet.

If interested, please contact Steve Lillis at [billiards12@hotmail.com](mailto:billiards12@hotmail.com) or go to the GTS website at [www.gospeltrickshot.org](http://www.gospeltrickshot.org) and hit the donate button or mail your tax deductible check made payable to:

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

The entire GTS team is looking forward to celebrating all that God has done through the years with our GTS friends and partners





# 2 AFRICA UPDATE

## Zambia project & Artistic Pool Champs in South Africa

Gospel Trick Shot continues to expand because of the many workers, volunteers, partners, and friends who are stepping up to help with the work of Gospel Trick Shot. In Zambia we have Elijah representing GTS and working with our orphanage under the leadership of GTS RACK team member Wayne Parker of South Africa. GTS helped purchase gravel for the roads in front of the orphanage in Lusaka, Zambia, to help prevent flooding from the heavy rains last month!

In May 2023, Wayne Parker, with the help of Elijah from Zambia, will be running the first ever South African National Artistic Pool Championship with support from GTS partners and friends and there will be a special Gospel Trick Shot show during the event.

Elijah will then return to Zambia afterwards, and under the training and leadership of Wayne, start doing GTS shows in Zambia also!



LEFT: Three young boys from the orphanage carrying some bags of maize to try and salvage what little they had left.



Due to the severe floodings, much of the orphanage food was spoiled, however through the help and support of GTS Ministries partners and friends, we were able to send financial aid to assist with supply of gravel for flood prevention, and for emergency food.

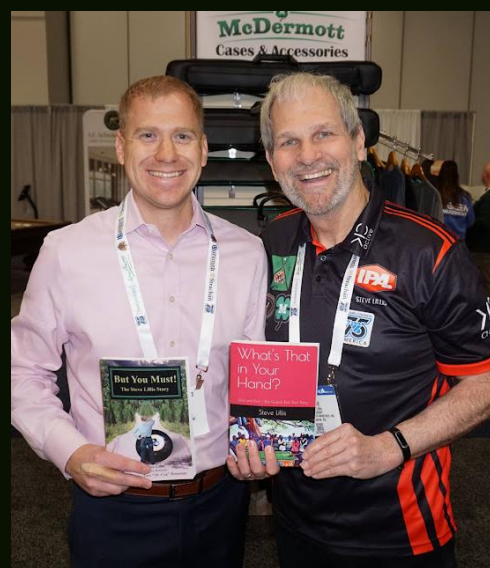
A poster for the South African Pool Festival. The top half is black with white text. It says "Gold Reef City" in a stylized font, followed by "PURE JOZI, PURE GOLD". Below that, in large white letters, is "SOUTH AFRICAN POOL FESTIVAL". Underneath, it says "7 MAY TO 7 JUNE 2023" and "BLACKBALL, HEYBALL, 9BALL, ARTISTIC POOL". The bottom half of the poster is yellow with black text. It says "ARTISTIC POOL SOUTH AFRICA" in large black letters, followed by "SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS" in red, and "16 -18 MAY 2023" in red. There is a logo for "ARTISTIC POOL SOUTH AFRICA" in the bottom right corner, which features a pool table and the words "ARTISTIC POOL SOUTH AFRICA". There is also a Facebook logo and the text "ARTISTIC POOL SOUTH AFRICA" in the bottom left corner.

LEFT: The South African Pool Festival will be the first time ever on the African continent that four pool disciplines will be hosting their national championships, namely: 9-Ball, Blackball, Heyball (Chinese 8-Ball) and Artistic Pool. The event takes place May 16-18 and will be showcased on local social media platforms and on Zambian television. GTS Ministries team members will be represented at this event to share the Gospel!



# 3 LAS VEGAS BCA SHOW

RIGHT: This past month, Mike Massey, Steve Lillis, with John and Jeannie English, went to Las Vegas to network with many industry partners and GTS friends at the annual BCA Trade Show. Special thanks to David Orlov from Las Vegas who served as our GTS media rep at the BCA Trade Show and is responsible for the Las Vegas pictures and video.





# 4 ARIZONA, PENNSYLVANIA

## Arizona GTS Shows

Mike and Steve then flew to Arizona the first week of April to do five GTS shows, with the help of Steve's sister Janet Curl from Arizona, who has been helping GTS at various events out West for over 20 years. Special thanks again to former GTS board member Roger Lorg and GTS friend Orrin Kolberg both from Arizona who helped secure venues for the GTS shows in Arizona.

RIGHT: BCA Hall of Famer Mike Massey (2005) had a creative month as he came up with more new trick shots and another Gospel billiard song as he is currently in Allentown, PA, working with GTS friends and some of his business partners.

## Mike Massey & Steve "Leapin" Lillis coming to Bell Billiard Club

- Friday, March 31, 2023 @ 12:00
- This is a FREE show! Donations accepted.
- Sponsored by the Bell Billiard Club.
- Lessons and pictures after the show.
- [Mike Massey Trick Shot Artist - Wix.com](#)
- [www.gospeltrickshot.org](http://www.gospeltrickshot.org)



5  
GTS  
SHOWS  
IN  
ARIZONA



**Click to Watch Video**

*"For I know the plans that I think toward you, says God!..*

*...Plans to give you a hope and a future!"*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

BCA Hall of Famer (2017) Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman will have a busy month in May in Las Vegas doing Dr. Cue shows and networking with many GTS friends and partners. Please pray and look at our GTS calendar for more information on Dr. Cue. Long time GTS friend and partner and BCA Hall of Famer (2005) Robin Dodson will make her first appearance on the Gospel Trick Shot of the month #39 in the AZBilliards.com "Buzz" Magazine for the month of May 2023. Happy Mother's Day Robin and thank you for sharing the Gospel in the billiard industry throughout your entire fabulous Hall of Fame billiard career going all the way back to 1983.

# 5 MAY GOSPEL TRICK SHOT

## Robin Dodson's Dog Catcher Gospel Trick Shot

**History of the Trick Shot:** BCA Hall of Famer (2005) Robin Dodson is the author of this amazing Gospel Trick Shot. She has been a volunteer and helper with Gospel Trick Shot Ministries Inc. (GTS) since 2001 where she first appeared with the original GTS team of seven including GTS President and Founder Steve Lillis and fellow Hall of Famers Mike Massey (2005), Tom Rossman (2017), and LoreeJon Ogonowski-Brown (2002), along with National Trick Shot Champion Steve Geller, and then GTS VP and MC Jeff Ballantyne. Robin has been sharing the Gospel with pool since 1983 and this shot is yet another example of her creativity in sharing her amazing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**GTS Name and Why:** Robin shares in the video her story about a nightmare she had many years ago when she was a new Christian and recovering from drug addiction. In the dream there were three fanged nasty looking cats represented by three striped object balls chasing her down the stairs and out of the house. On the street, was a dog catcher who represents Jesus and is the cue ball in this shot who was there to help Robin as long as she stayed close to Him. The three object balls disappear as Jesus (the dog catcher) takes care of the problem(s) and in the end Robin (the one ball) learns to stay close to Jesus and let Him take care of all of her problem(s) because she cannot do it on her own!

**Cue Ball Placement:** The cue ball is placed down the center of the table and about one diamond to the right of the two side pockets, as indicated in the diagram.

**Object Ball(s) Placement:** Two striped object balls (14 & 13 balls as in the diagram), are frozen to the cue ball, with the striped 13-ball lined up to the furthest pocket point of the side pocket. The other striped 12-ball is lined up to the left pocket point of the corner pocket. This is to allow for the throw effect of the two frozen object balls. The 9-ball is near the opposite side pocket and the 1-ball is a half diamond to the right of the side pocket, as shown in the diagram. Three cues are also used as props on the table.



**Objective:** Shoot the cue ball with high left-hand side spin making the two frozen striped object balls into the side and corner pockets. The cue ball will run off three rails and make its way up between the cues, make a U-turn in the corner pocket, and then slowly run down the other two cues towards the 9-ball. After the cue ball makes the 9-ball into the side pocket, it will come to rest near the 1-ball.

**Special Notes:** The direction of aim for the cue ball is about one and a half diamonds from the corner pocket. Ensure that the three prop cues fit snug in the corner pocket so that the cue ball can make the U-turn down the other cues. Position the two cues so that the cue ball cuts the 9-ball into the side pocket and comes to rest near the 1-ball. Playing too hard will result in the cue running up the cues and off the table. Playing too soft will result in the cue ball not making it all the way up the cues to make the U-turn.



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## But You Must!

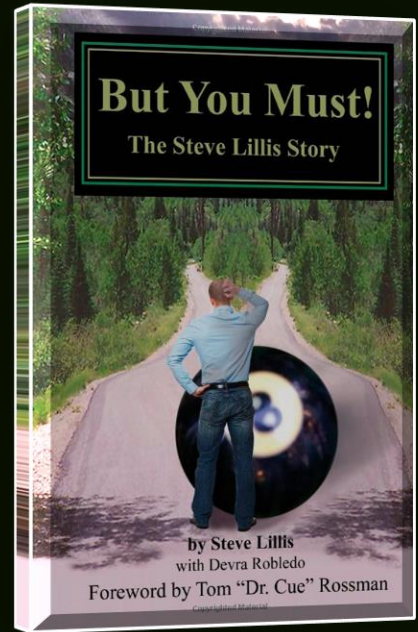
A movie clip from the opening scene of “But You Must! The Steve Lillis Story” was released on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and was shared with Christian filmmakers in Nashville, TN for consideration of a possible movie based on the book. Please pray for this exciting possibility!

GTS board member and chairman of the WPA Artistic Pool Division Brian “Superman” Pauley worked in the McDermott Booth at the annual Hopkins Expo April 13-16 at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA.



Mike Massey and Steve Lillis, along with Brian, did some of their favorite trick shots for the audience present and produced a special Gospel Trick Shot greeting video from the USA to be used next month at the South African National Artistic Pool Championships.

All this would not be possible without the prayers and support of all our many GTS friends and sponsors. To God be the glory! Thank you and God bless!



LEFT: A quick throw-back to last month's prison outreach with GTS team Phil Ball, Carmen Stura, Tom "Dr.Cue" Rossman and Jason "The Michigan Kid" Lynch who did two Gospel Trick Shot shows for the inmates at The Trumbull Correctional Institution. - *The Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the only remedy to the malady of the heart!*

# GTS CALENDAR

## GTS Calendar 2023: changes and additions are forthcoming:

>**5/16/23 – 5/18/23** – 1st Annual South Africa National Artistic Pool Championship and GTS shows with GTS RACK team partner Wayne Parker of Johannesburg, South Africa organizing alongside of other billiard vendors and competitions taking place before and after.

>**April/May/June 2023** – Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman with GTS RACK friends’ opportunity to meet, greet, and network at the following events:

APA Poolplayer Championships April 26-30, 2023 Westgate, *Las Vegas, NV*

USBA National 3 - Cushion Championship May 3-7, 2023 Carom Billiards, *Lauderhill, FL*

2023 ACS Nationals -- "Meet and Greet" Sessions with "Dr. Cue" May 13-20, 2023 Tropicana, *Las Vegas, NV*

Shows, Clinics, Challenge Forums and Direction of VNEA International Artistic Pool Championship Shootouts May 26 – June 3, 2023 Westgate, *Las Vegas, NV*

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

>**7/15/23 – 7/16/23** – **Gospel Trick Shot 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet** during Hawthorne Gospel Church Summer Bible Conference mission focus weekend on Saturday night at 6:00 pm in the HGC Pavilion with food, music, special speakers & Sunday morning & evening services with GTS team updates.

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

>**10/30/23 – 11/4/23** – International 9-Ball Open @ Sheraton Waterside Hotel Norfolk, VA with a GTS booth and UK 7-foot pool table to play Blackball and do GTS shows with Bible studies alongside other billiard events.

>**GTS World Tour 2023 and (TBD)** – invites from ministries & billiard federations: Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Japan, Indonesia, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda & 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](http://www.gospeltrickshot.org)**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE "REMOVED" FROM OUR GTS EMAIL LIST PLEASE HIT REPLY AND INDICATE AS SUCH!