

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT MINISTRIES, INC. NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2024

MOROCCO MEGAPOOL

BCC and IVCF and GTS

GTS PARTY WITH PHIL AND MARY BALL

ANNUAL BCA TRADE SHOW IN LAS VEGAS

CHINA AND HEYBALL

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT OF THE MONTH

CALENDAR



1 MOROCCO AND MEGAPOOL

Morocco and MegaPool

At the end of February and the beginning of March GTS Vice President Pastor Michael Hewitt took his family for a surprise birthday visit to Spain to visit his son Luke Hewitt who is studying in Spain. Visits were made to the Rising Hope Church Plant in Seville, Spain called Cafe Con Dios which Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. helped to plant on an initial GTS trip back in October 2021. Michael and his sons went over to Tangier, Morocco to visit MYcherif and his famous MegaPool Cafe and did some pool shooting while fellowshipping with local Moroccans.



ABOVE: Michael, Caleb, and Luke Hewitt with owner MYcherif, of MegaPool Billiards Room in Tangier Morocco.

2 BCC and IVCF and GTS

BCC and IVCF and GTS

On March 6th Steve Lillis partnered with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at the Bergen Community College to do a Gospel Trick Shot show in the student center on campus at lunchtime. Eighty-eight students turned out to see and hear the GTS presentation along with 10 representatives of the IVCF undergraduate and graduate fellowships. Regional IVCF leadership was also on hand and is looking forward to getting GTS on more New Jersey state college campuses. Please pray for this exciting opportunity as college campuses are opening up again post COVID-19. Praise God!



ABOVE: Steve presenting The Wall Gospel Trick Shot demonstrating how God broke the wall that separated us from Him.



3 GTS PARTY WITH PHIL AND MARY BALL

GTS Party with Phil and Mary Ball

On March 9th Steve and Camille Lillis were special guests at a “Thank You” party for 24 GTS supporters who helped to send Phil Ball on a GTS RACK team to Morocco in 2022 and South Africa in 2023 for GTS shows, outreach, and competition. Steve Lillis and Phil Ball did a special GTS presentation on the Blackball table to demonstrate how the Gospel is shared on the pool table.



4 ANNUAL BCA TRADE SHOW IN LAS VEGAS

Annual BCA Trade Show in Las Vegas

On March 19-21 Steve Lillis, John English, and an Automated Entertainment Team from Los Angeles were on hand at the BCA Trade Show to promote Blackball in the USA. GTS has been partnering with Blackball International (BI) on a global scale for the past two years in helping to bring the game of Blackball (English style pool popular all over the world) to the USA. Contacts were made and a Billiard Education Foundation (BEF) National Junior Blackball event is scheduled for July 2024 with potential sponsors. Please pray!



ABOVE: Steve Lillis doing a GTS Show with a chalk-less tip!



ABOVE: AZ Billiards Publisher Mike Howerton receiving the BCA Annual President's Award with GTS President Steve Lillis on his right and BCA President Shane Tyree on his left with BCA Board Chairman Philippe Singer on his far left.

5 CHINA AND HEYBALL

China and Heyball

At the end of March, Wayne and Chantal Parker with the help of sponsor McDermott Cues traveled to China to compete in the 2024 World Heyball Masters and help share the love and gospel of Jesus, and vision of GTS. Heyball also known as Chinese 8-Ball is another cue sport discipline that GTS will eventually take a more active role in the near future. Currently our focus is Blackball as Heyball is growing around the world which will give GTS another platform to share the Gospel.

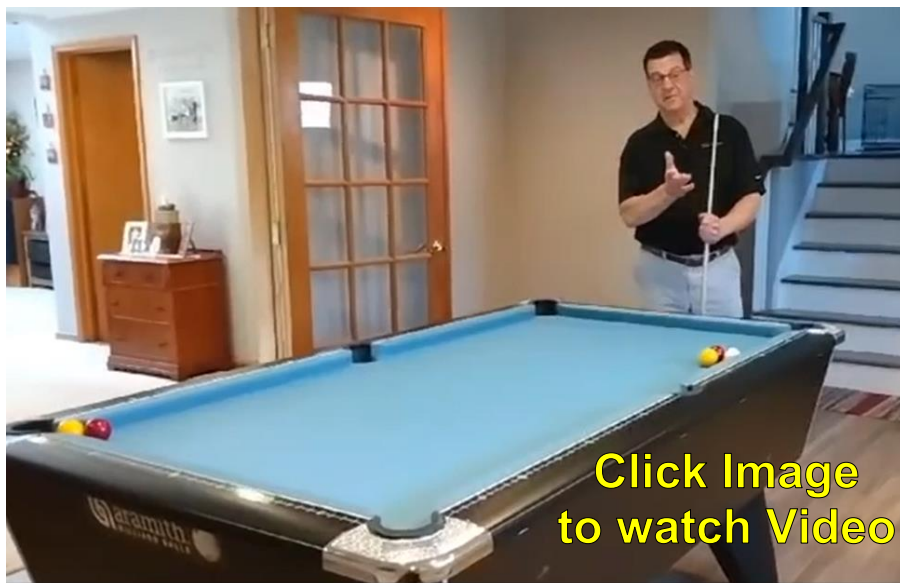


GTS SHOT OF THE MONTH

Gospel Trick Shot #50 - The “Jailbreak” Shot

History of the Trick Shot:

This Gospel Trick Shot performed on an English Blackball pool table was developed from a shot which is featured in the new Artistic Blackball shot program in Discipline 5 “Bank & Kick Shots” which debuted in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2023. This is shot number 3 in that discipline with a degree of difficulty of 6, meaning you get 6 points for making it on the first attempt, 5 on the second attempt and 4 on the third attempt and zero if not executed. This is a relatively easy shot by Artistic Pool standards.



GTS Name and Why:

This shot is called Jailbreak to represent how Paul and Silas were freed from prison in a story from the Book of Acts Chapter 16. An additional ball was added to represent Silas who was imprisoned with Paul. The two yellow balls represent Paul and Silas, the two red balls represent the Roman guards and the white cue ball represents the Holy Spirit who indwells us after we accept Jesus who died for our sins and gives us eternal life. Jesus alone has the power to free us from the bondage of sin. Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned for causing an uproar in the marketplace.

Scripture Reference:

In Acts 16:25 – “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.”

Cue Ball Placement:

Against the rail on the second diamond.

Object Ball(s) placement:

One red ball is frozen to the cue ball in line with the second diamond on the opposite rail. The other red ball is frozen to the yellow ball in the opposite corner pocket. The first yellow ball is frozen to the red ball next to the cue ball. The second yellow ball is placed in front of the opposite corner pocket.



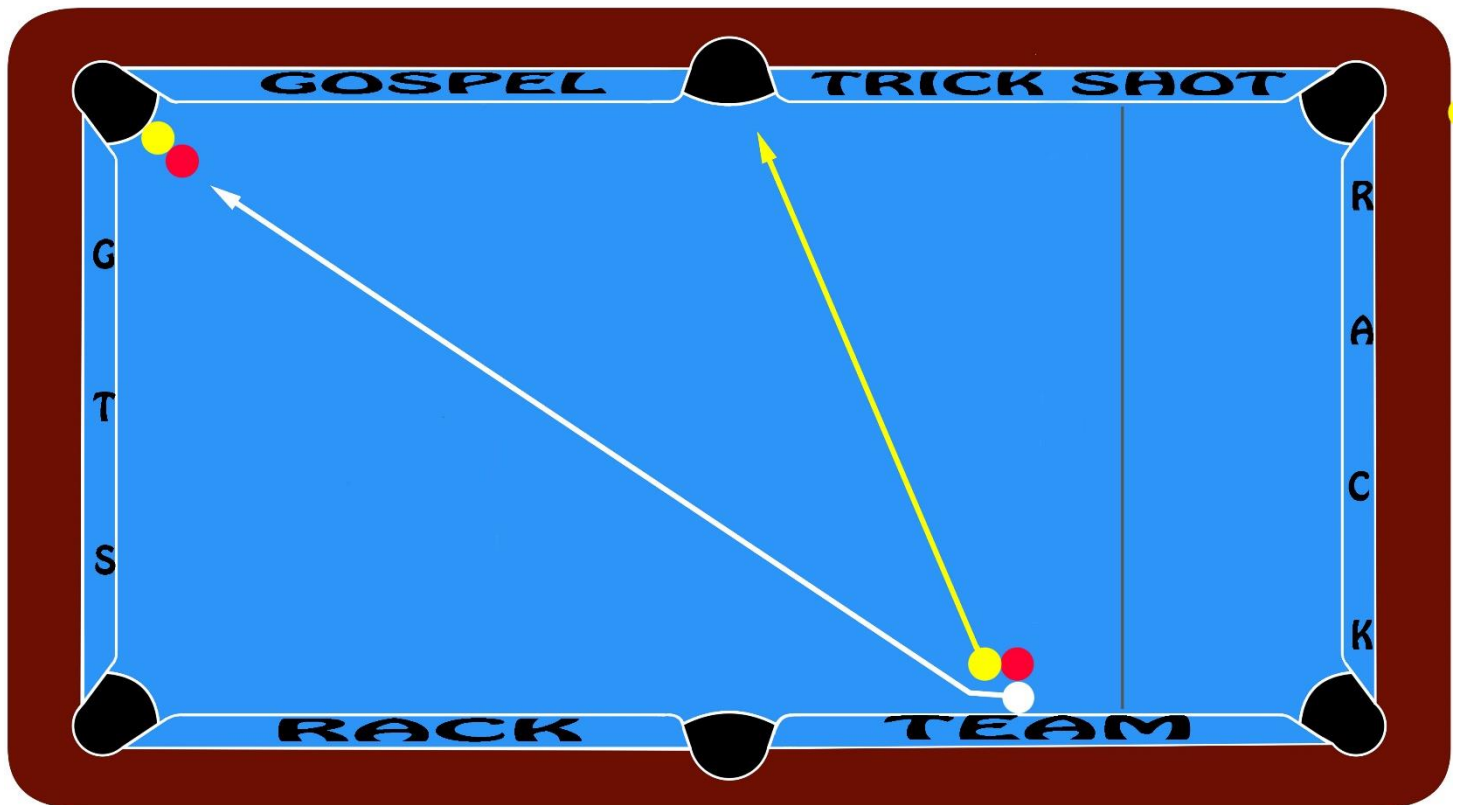
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Objective: Shoot the cue ball into the rail which causes the yellow ball to go straight into the opposite side pocket. The cue ball then travels across the table to hit the red ball, sinking the yellow ball in the corner pocket.

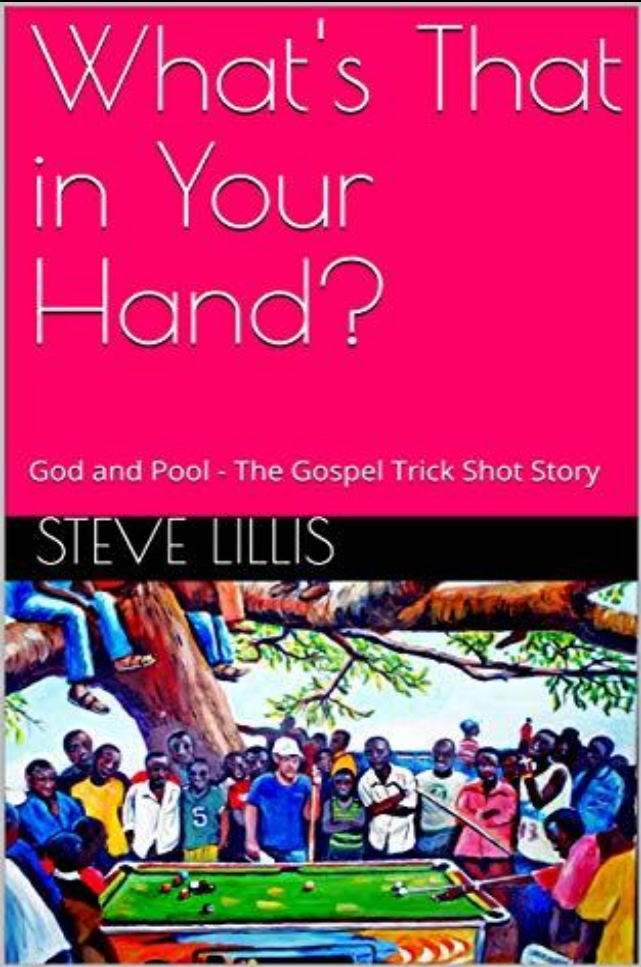
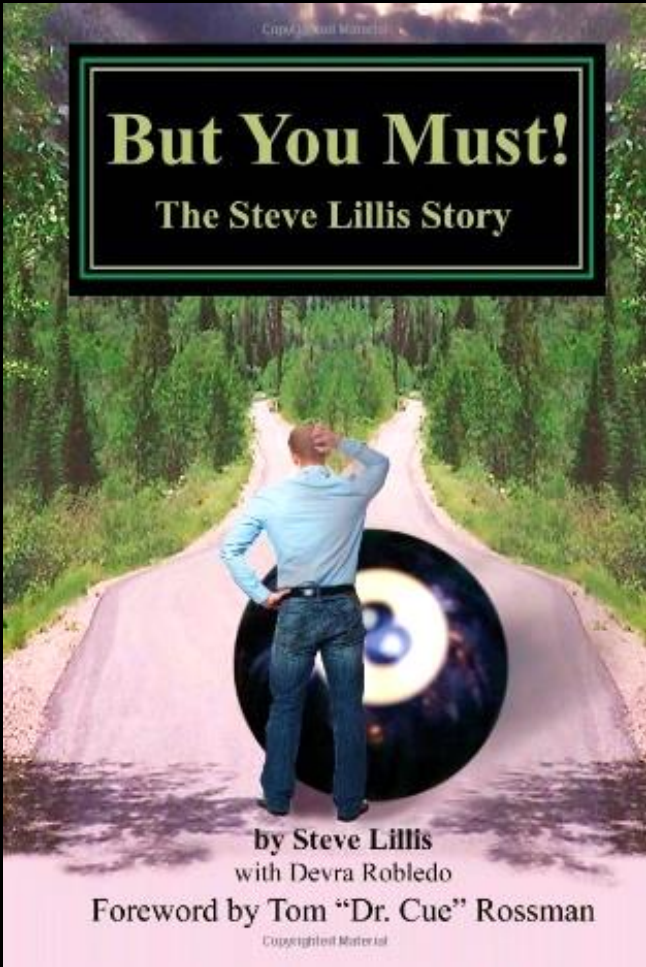
Special Notes: The first red ball stays where it is! If the cue ball goes short of the far corner pocket, then use bottom draw on the cue ball to widen the angle.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: This is a new Gospel Trick Shot adapted to Blackball and will be presented at upcoming GTS shows. The shot entails shooting the white ball into the rail to make one yellow ball in the opposite side pocket and then travelling down the table to make the other yellow in the opposite corner pocket.

In the Artistic Blackball competition in South Africa in October 2023, this was a favorite among the full field of 48 players who participated in the event. It is a relatively easy shot and many of the Artistic Blackball players who executed the shot were delighted to score points.



Books by Steve Lillis



Click on Image to Order



Click on Image to Order

GTS CALENDAR

GTS CALENDAR 2024: CHANGES AND ADDITIONS ARE FORTHCOMING (BILLIARD INDUSTRY EVENTS ARE CONFIRMED AS GTS PARTICIPATION IS (TBD) TO BE DETERMINED!

>**4/11/24 - 4/14/24** - Steve Lillis and Brian Pauley at the Hopkins Super Billiards Expo in the McDermott Booth with a United Blackball Table at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center.

>**4/19/24 - 4/21/24 (TBD)** - Steve Lillis at the Louisiana Open 8-Ball tournament produced by Ultimate Pool USA in the Shreveport Convention Center.

>**5/4/24 (TBD)** - GTS Annual Board meeting on Zoom at 9:00 am.

>**5/31/24** - Steve Lillis will speak at the Brick House Restaurant for the weekly NCS meeting in Wyckoff, NJ on the topic of (BAM) Business As Mission.

>**5/31/24 – 6/2/24** – SA Classic Artistic Blackball Championship with the “Steve Lillis Trophy” directed by GTS RACK team member Wayne Parker at the Sessions Pool Room in Cape Town, South Africa with a GTS show and booth.

>**7/8/24 – 7/13/24** – Billiard Education Foundation 36th Annual Junior National Championships sponsored by the BCA in the Oakley-Lindsay Center in Quincy, IL with a Blackball arena featuring competition and a GTS booth featuring Blackball.

>**9/25/30 - 9/30/24 (TBD)** – WNT 2024 U.S. Open 9-Ball Championships at Harrah’s Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ with a Gospel Trick Shot booth and the GTS portable pool table.

>**10/11/24 – 10/22/24 (TBD)** - WPA Blackball International (BI) World Championships and the Hawley Cup in Bridlington, England with a team of five A players (pros) and a team of five B players (juniors or amateurs) in international competition with the 2024 WPA World Artistic Blackball Championships and GTS shows.

>**GTS World Tour 2024-25 (TBD)** – ministry & billiard federation invites: India, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Japan, Indonesia, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Zambia, 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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