

GOSPEL TRICK SHOT MINISTRIES, INC. NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2023

GTS RACK SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

GTS & ACTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

GTS SHOW AT BILLIARD CAFE

2023 HAWLEY CUP & GTS CLASSIC CUP

GTS SHOT OF THE MONTH

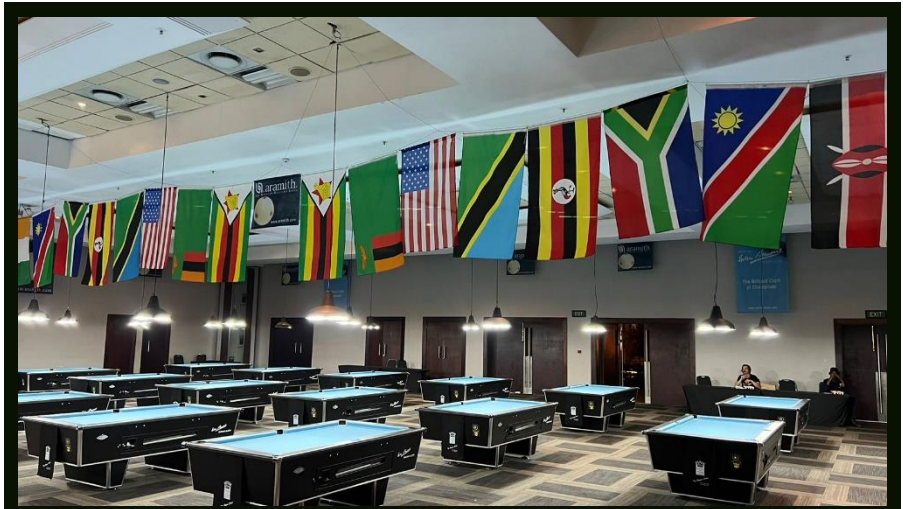
CALENDAR



1 GTS RACK SA TOUR

October 11- 25 - A Gospel Trick Shot RACK (Recreational Ambassadors for Christ's Kingdom) Team of six cue artists came together in Johannesburg, South Africa to share the Gospel and serve the billiard industry in the game of Blackball played on pool tables that originally came out of England. The game of Blackball evolved in South Africa in the early 2000's and is now endorsed by the WPA (World Pool and Billiard Association) under the IOC (International Olympic Committee). GTS President and Founder Steve Lillis serves on the BI (Blackball International) Board of Directors representing the BCA (Billiard Congress of America) which serves North America.

Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc. primarily helped as a service sponsor in the first ever Hawley Cup Blackball event in honor of Peter Hawley the Founder of United Pool Tables and Blackball International. Twenty-four United Pool Tables were placed in the Monte Casino Hotel for this major international event that brought together 16 teams from 4 different continents. The GTS team was treated to a factory tour at United Pool Tables. The five-man GTS team from the USA along with coach Wayne Parker from South Africa continue to use BAM (Business as Mission) in the billiard industry as a model for ministry. The following report is a recap of what God did in bringing the nations together in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thank you to all our GTS supporters who faithfully prayed and gave financial support to help make all this possible. To God be all the glory!



The venue where the GTS Ministries preached the Gospel



Visiting GTS Family in South Africa for some SA Hospitality!

2 GTS AT ACTS CHURCH

Friday October 13th

A Gospel Trick Shot show was done for 626 youth at the year-end finale of youth night at our GTS partner church called Acts Christian Church in Johannesburg. Teenage youth attendees invited their school friends as summer in South Africa is about to start as school is ending. Many of these students struggle with drugs, alcohol, suicide, and depression. During the alter call 50 youth stood up to receive Christ with 11 requesting personal visitation. Praise God!



Sunday October 15th

The GTS team were special guests of Acts Christian Church on Sunday and met privately with the church staff after the morning service. Then they were off to a Sunday afternoon barbeque with many church friends and family at the home of former Acts Christian Church Evangelist Wayne Parker who is now on the leadership team of Gospel Trick Shot Ministries, Inc.

...SOME MORE



YOUTH SHOW!



**GOD
CAN
PART
YOUR
RED SEA**



**Click to
Watch
'Parting of the
Red Sea'**

**Click to Watch Acts
Youth Greeting**



**Click to Watch
'Pride before a Fall'
Trick Shot**



3 GTS SHOW AT BILLIARD CAFÉ

Saturday October 14th

The GTS RACK Team went to the Billiard Café in a local shopping mall to participate in a local Blackball tournament, take on a friendly challenge from a local South African team, and do a special Gospel Trick Shot show for the club patrons.

Right before the GTS show the team reported back live on location in the Billiard Café to GTS sponsor church Hawthorne Gospel during their annual Global Mission's Conference. What a blessing to share live by Zoom with the Global Mission team members and partners what the GTS team was doing in South Africa.

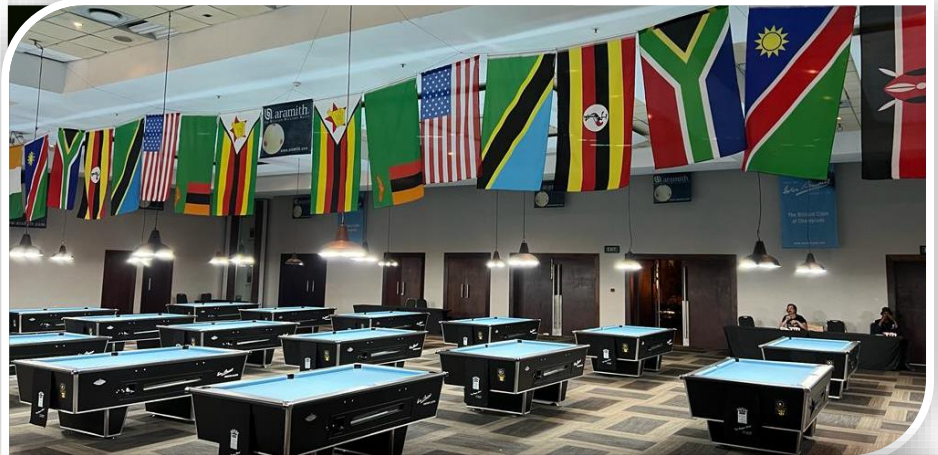
**Click to Watch
Video**



4

2023 BLACKBALL HAWLEY CUP

Monday October 16-23 – The Hawley Cup event was held with the USA GTS team competing with 15 other teams from 4 continents. The USA team is still learning the game as they were able to win 5 matches out of 15 which was an improvement over their first Blackball event which was in Morocco last October where the team won only one match.



ABOVE: During the Awards ceremony, Wayne Parker, winner of the GTS Artistic Blackball Cup giving his 1st place Cup Trophy and Medals away to Thuli, who could not compete in the event due to her physical disability. Even though being restricted to her wheelchair, she still left as an event winner, “walking away” with the 1st prize Cup trophy, Medal and prize money which was presented to her.

GTS CLASSIC ARTISTIC BLACKBALL CUP

The highlight of the entire outreach trip was the GTS RACK Team coming together in Christian team unity to produce and direct a first ever Artistic Blackball event called the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup that registered a full field of 48 international players. Artistic Blackball is similar to the American style Artistic Pool but played on English style pool tables. Artistic Blackball has 8 specific disciplines of pool just like gymnastics has different disciplines like the rings, uneven parallel bars, the horse, mats, etc. In Artistic Pool we have different types of shots requiring different types of ball movements and execution, like draw shots, follow shots, stroke shots, bank & kick shots, jump shots, masse shots, etc. This event was a tremendous success and served as a test pilot program for the future as GTS is planning to go to England next October to help produce the first ever WPA sanctioned 2024 World Artistic Blackball Championship. Plans are also underway to produce another Blackball event in 2024 called the Pacific Cup which will hopefully be in Los Angeles.



ABOVE: Essential support and serving team members, Phil Ball and Jason Lynch helping with the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup Event.



...SOME MORE PHOTOS

Most importantly a Dr. Cue teaching clinic was done along with two full Gospel Trick Shot shows in the main arena. Each day 90 minutes was given to GTS to do the Artistic Blackball competition and the Gospel Trick Shot shows where Jesus Christ was preached open air.

A Gospel invitation was given through prayer at the conclusion of each Gospel Trick Shot show. The Lord Jesus Christ was glorified and people responded! People visited the Gospel Trick Shot booth and took salvation bracelets, Jesus rocks, and helpful Christian literature.

One young man came forward and shared that what was said in the GTS show caused him to pray and dedicate his life to Christ. He said that God revealed to him that this was his last chance and in coming to this pool event he met Jesus and is now on his way to Acts Christian Church.



ABOVE: Pastor Michael Hewitt doing a Call to Salvation.

BELOW: The GTS Booth in the main arena packed with Gospel tracts, Jesus Rocks and Salvation bracelets.



Again, we thank all of our Gospel Trick Shot friends and supporters for helping to make all this possible. Please continue to give and pray as we have two more exciting international outreach events coming up this month. In Norfolk, VA we will have a GTS booth with a United Blackball pool table at the International 9-Ball and in Puerto Rico we will be attending the CSI (Cue Sports International) Predator U.S. Pro Billiard 10-Ball event. Both of these events will have pool players from about 30 different countries. Once again God is bringing the nations together and Gospel Trick Shot will be there to serve and share Jesus. God Bless!

JOHN  :  

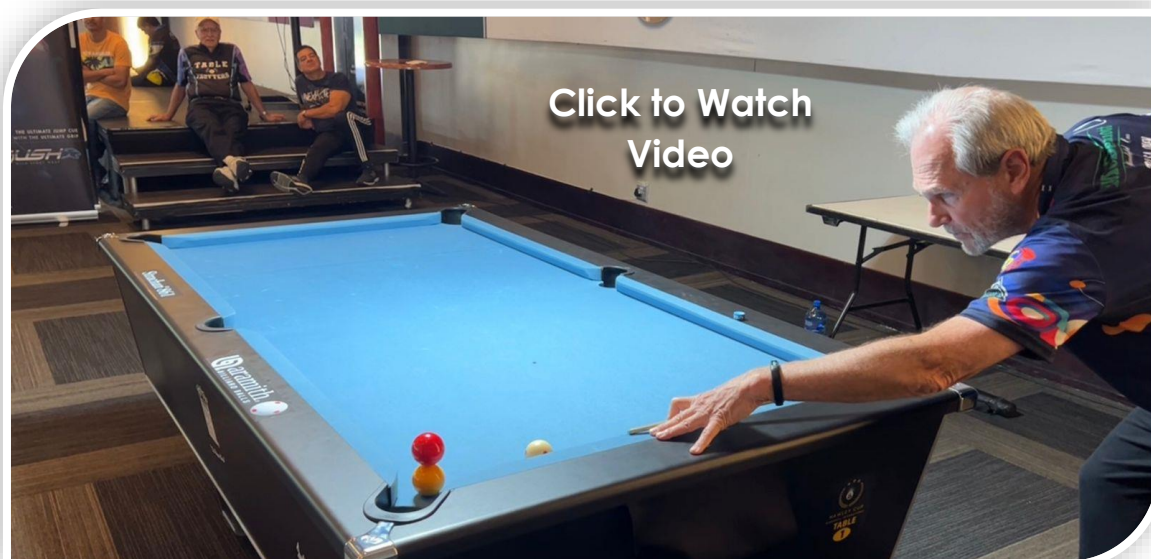
5 GTS SHOT OF THE MONTH

Pride, Humility, and Teamwork!

History of the Trick Shot: This Gospel Trick Shot was done at the Blackball International (BI) Hawley Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa October 16-23 on a United Pool Table used for Blackball pool. A team of six Gospel Trick Shot cue artists led by yours truly Steve Lillis went to compete in this event representing the USA. There were national teams attending from 4 continents around the World. The USA team worked together in unity to also produce the first ever Artistic Blackball event called the GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup which converted many traditional shots from Artistic Pool to Artistic Blackball. The Artistic Blackball competition during the Hawley Cup included the 8 traditional disciplines of Artistic Pool and the coveted Sportsman Award. A full field of 48 players registered for the event with 16 places paid out, trophies for the top three, and all the traditional discipline medals awarded to the winners. In addition, two Gospel Trick Shot shows were performed in the main arena with various teaching clinics on the shots and the diamond system which was introduced for the first time on these type of pool tables.

GTS Name and Why: In the video, yours truly Steve Lillis introduces the concepts of pride, humility, and teamwork. Another name for this shot is the stacking ball shot because you place an object ball on top of another object ball that is uniquely cut to balance a ball on it. In this shot the ball on the top falls to the table signifying that when a person is focused inordinately on themselves, they will fall or in this case at the Hawley Cup the team will fall or suffer. The USA Gospel Trick Shot RACK Team worked in unity with each other displaying all their unique gifts and talents for the benefit of successfully getting the job done which was to run a successful GTS Classic Artistic Blackball Cup event so that the World may see that it can be done. All our gifts and talents come from God and when used for the benefit of the team greater things can be accomplished and God will be glorified in the process!

Scripture References (ESV): Psalm 133:1 – “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” and I Corinthians 12:25 “That there should be no division in the body (fellow believers in Christ), but that its parts should have equal concern for one another.” and Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”



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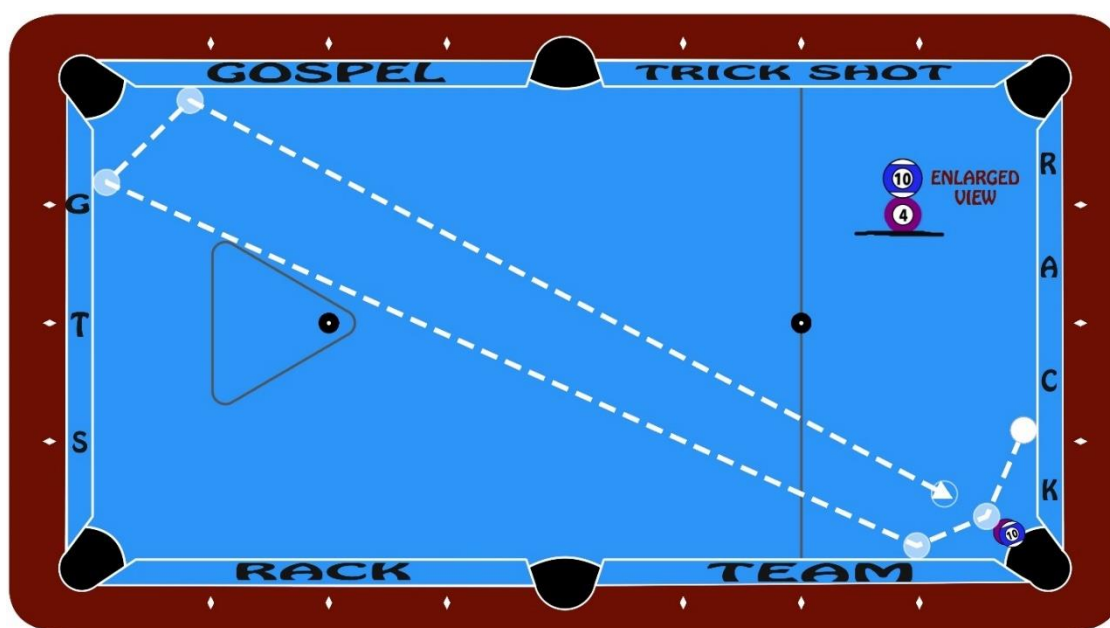
Cue Ball Placement: In hand along the bottom cushion to get the best aiming angle on the bottom stacking object ball.

Object Ball(s) Placement: A stacking object ball is placed in the jaws of the corner pocket as shown in the diagram. It should be in a position for maximum pocketing ability so that when the cue ball comes around the table to make contact with the other object ball that falls on the table it will have the greatest opportunity to be pocketed. That other object ball is placed on top and balanced on the dimple in the stacking ball.

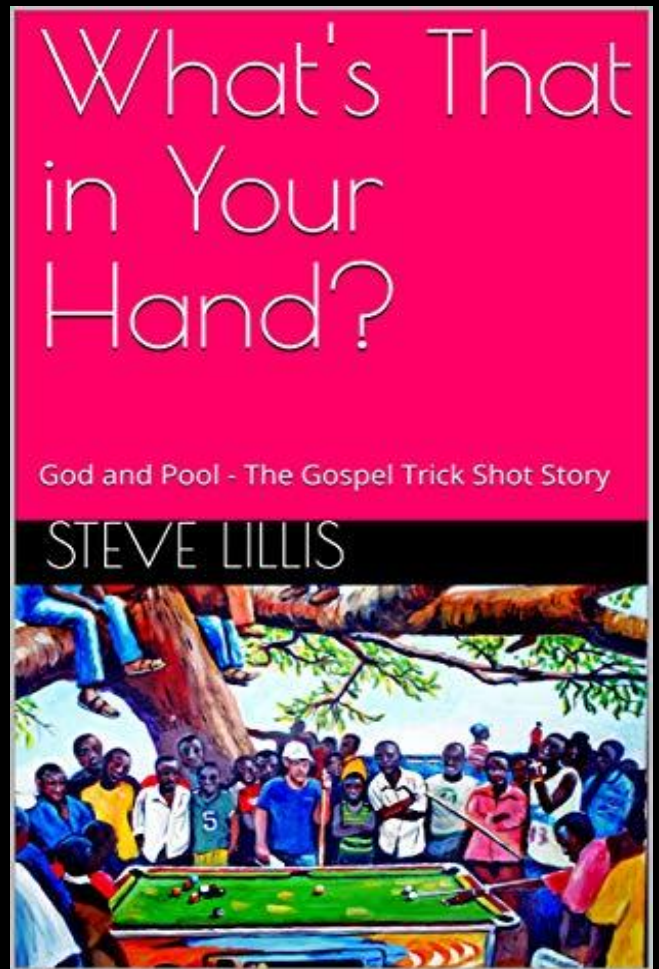
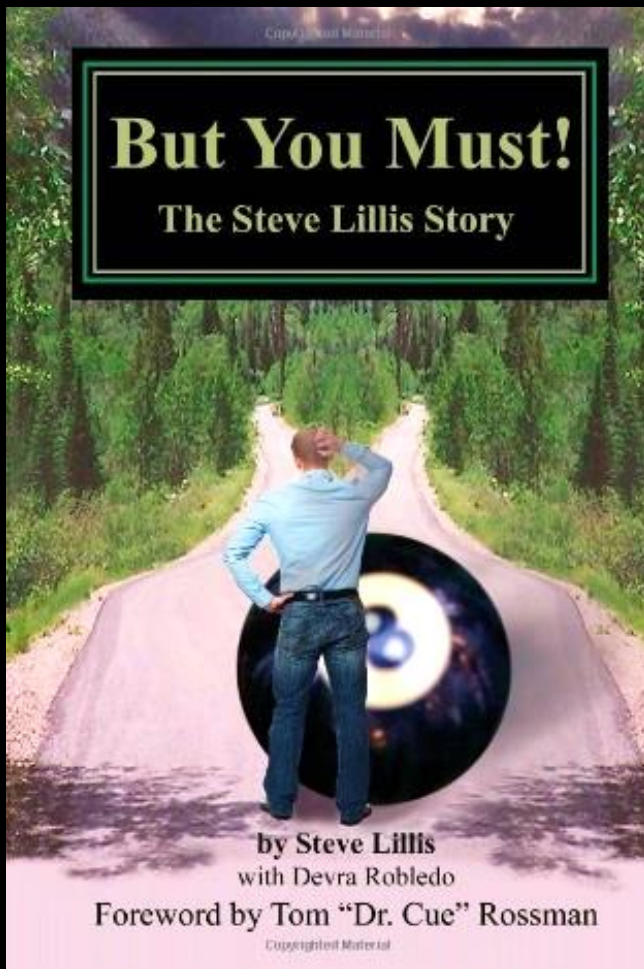
Objective: In Blackball shoot the 1 7/8-inch cue ball used for Blackball into the 2-inch stacking ball which is the standard size of object balls used for Blackball with seven reds and seven yellows and one blackball which is the 8-Ball. That second 2 inch object ball will fall to the table as displayed in the video while the cue ball travels two rails up and back to knock that other object ball into the corner pocket. This can also be similarly done on an American pool table with 2 ¼ inch pool balls.

Special Notes: Your aim on the targeted stacking ball is critical to get the cue ball up and back. Try placing the cue ball frozen on the bottom rail one diamond away and aim to hit about half of the object ball. Adjust as necessary after establishing a starting point.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: Many well know cue artists including yours truly Steve Lillis have used this trick shot in their shows for years. People have asked how do we get the balls to balance on top of each other. Most performers usually keep it a trade secret but when pressed the next question might be where do I get a ball like that. Not a simple answer as many are cut and made by the performers and not generally advertised for sale. The Gospel Trick Shot message with the shot resonates with the spectators as all people tend to be selfish and prideful. However, because of the blood shed by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for our selfish and sinful nature and by the power of the Holy Spirit which comes after we believe, we can overcome our selfish nature and function in unity to bless others and accomplish great things for God's glory!



Books by Steve Lillis



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Image
to Order



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GTS CALENDAR

GTS Calendar 2023-24: changes and additions are forthcoming!

>**10/27/23 – 11/5/23** – International 9-Ball Open at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel Norfolk, VA with a GTS team in the Gospel Trick Shot booth featuring Blackball competition and GTS Artistic Blackball alongside other billiard activities and events.

>**11/6/23 – 11/11/23** – GTS Team of Wayne Parker, Steve Lillis, Mike Massey, John English, and Mark Vander Hoven will attend the Medalla Light Puerto Rico Open in the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico produced and directed by Cue Sports International (CSI) and the Predator U.S. Pro Billiards Series. There will be competition and GTS shows and outreach.

>**11/17/23** – GTS Show with Steve Lillis at Stevens Tech in Hoboken, NJ working with ISI students on campus with the GTS portable pool table.

>**12/2/23 – 12/3/23** – SA Classic Artistic Pool 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.

>**2/7/24 – 2/10/24** - 2023 WPA World Artistic Pool Championship in Bay City, MI with GTS Booth and GTS RACK team members.

>**2/20/24 – 2/25/24 (TBD)** – The IPA World Blackball Championships at the Gosforth Grand Hotel in Newcastle, England with a GTS Artistic Blackball show.

>**7/8/24 – 7/13/24 (TBD)** – 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 Artistic Blackball.

>**October 2024 (TBD)** - The 2024 BI World Blackball Championships and the 2024 WPA World Artistic Blackball Championships in England.

>**GTS World Tour 2023-24 and (TBD)** – invites from ministries & billiard federations: 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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