

Joseph and Emmanuela Asong

# Missio Vibes

August 2021

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Loving greetings in Christ from Malawi! We continue to lift you and yours before the LORD, trusting that by His grace you continue to rejoice in the hope that we have in His Son. What a privilege we have in Him during a time in the world when there is so much sadness and hopelessness.

## OUR TIMES ARE IN HIS HANDS!

If everything went according to our plan, we would have been in the US as we speak, preparing to attend the missionary conferences in the Pacific Northwest this fall; however, here we are writing to you from Malawi! Due to restrictions arising from the fight against the Coronavirus, both here in Malawi and in the US, we have not been able to acquire visas for our US trip. At this point, we honestly do not know if we will make it this year. Should the LORD make it possible, we will gladly seize the opportunity. Please pray that we will know His peace in all of this and that we will have His wisdom on how to use our time as we navigate these uncertain times. Talking about uncertainties, kindly pray too for our vehicle which has been quite unstable since the first week of June. Since then, we have changed the gear box, alternator, and battery, yet we continue to have problems. Our prayer is that it will not completely die on us until the LORD opens a door for a replacement! May the LORD please supply a replacement soon. The vehicle has been a very reliable companion for almost six years now.

## A SEASON OF CELEBRATION

In spite of all the sadness and gloom that the world is experiencing right now, the LORD gave us a season of multiple celebrations here in Malawi. Please join us in rejoicing and praising God for the three successful graduations we had in May and June, in Lilongwe and outside of Lilongwe. In May, Emmanuela and her Home Economics team graduated 42 women from the Grace School of Home Economics. These women had spent about a year studying several disciplines including Entrepreneurship and Nutrition. The ceremony was a great encouragement to these 42 ladies who have now been equipped to economically transform their lives and that of their families.

In the first week of June, Joseph and a team from Lilongwe traveled south to Luchenza to graduate 14 students from three of our Chichewa Bible School campuses. Although it was a very difficult trip because of the breakdown of our vehicle on the way, the graduation in Luchenza was a great success and an unmeasurable encouragement to the graduates and many of our churches in the south of Malawi. On June 19, we



A former graduate of the Grace School of Home Economics inside her shop which she opened with a grant we offered



Graduating students process into the Home Economics graduation in Lilongwe



Emmanuela presents a Certificate to a graduating student during the Home Economics graduation in Lilongwe

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concluded our celebration spree in Lilongwe with the graduation of 18 students from our Lilongwe Bible School campus. **Please pray that the LORD will use these men and women to bring many to Christ and to build many more in the grace of our LORD Jesus Christ.**

### WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

While no one really knows what the future holds, ours is to dream and plan big for the LORD. Given the rapid but steady growth of the Grace School of Home Economics in Lilongwe, Emmanuela and her team earnestly need a large classroom where they can sit at least 50 women at once. Training space has been quite a challenge for this ministry from the beginning. The blessing of such a classroom in Lilongwe is that it will also serve the many other ministries that are thriving in the area, including Malawi Grace Bible School. **Please pray that the LORD will supply for the building and equipping of this classroom and that Emmanuela and her team will have the discernment needed to choose the best time to begin the next training session.** In the meantime, Emmanuela and her team have already begun to offer loans and grants to many of the Home Economics graduates who are now engaged in new business ventures. **Please pray for success!**

The future is looking great for Theological Education and Leadership Training in Malawi as we continue to help the Grace Church in Malawi prepare godly and capable men and women to lead the many ministries that the LORD has entrusted to the Grace Church in Malawi. Now that our very first batch of Malawians have graduated from our highest level of training, we can reach more Bible School campuses more regularly as these men are fully equipped to be commissioned to run Bible School modules outside of Lilongwe without the presence of Joseph or other GMI missionaries. While Joseph will continue to teach classes all over Malawi and to organize things as the Dean of Academics of Malawi Grace Bible School, we believe that it is time for us to give a fair amount of our time to orienting the Grace Church towards running a self-sustaining ministry in Leadership Training and Theological Education. It will take a while for them to get there but as it is said, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a step. **Please pray with and for us in this direction, and please continue to stand with and for us in this exciting ministry.**

We dearly appreciate you and your support!

Joseph, Emmanuela, Princess and Sammy Parker



Faculty poses with graduating students in Luchenza



Joseph congratulates Pastor James Bandah (a final year student) after he received his Diploma from Dr. Bill Vinton