

TRANSFORMATION INSIGHTS

THE ASONGS IN MALAWI



SERVING WITH GMI

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Partner in Ministry,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our prayer is for you to draw closer to the LORD in this new year and to continue to enjoy His grace in all its fullness. We are well here in Malawi, and we continue to trust the LORD to use us on the mission field for His glory.

2023 WAS A GREAT YEAR

Please join us as we praise the LORD for 2023. Although it had its share of challenges, 2023 was an extraordinary year in many ways. The LORD brought us closer to Himself, kept us safe and healthy, blessed us with many fruitful ministry opportunities, brought many of our relatives to visit us in Malawi for the first time since we began our work here in 2012, supplied our needs abundantly, and much more. It is always good to be deliberate in appreciating the LORD for the great things He accomplishes in our lives. We are sure He has been doing great things in your lives too and we join you in praising Him.

THINGS DO NOT ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED

Between September and December of 2023, Joseph made several trips outside of Lilongwe to run Bible School modules in keeping with our cornerstone goal to help the Grace Church in Malawi train competent leaders for our local Grace Churches and ministries. Joseph even traveled to Zambia in November to speak at the annual national leadership conference for the Grace Church in Zambia. The conference in Zambia was a great success as the leadership of the Grace Church in Zambia is working hard to move the ministries there forward. While these trips are always such a huge blessing, things do not always go as planned! But we always learn from the challenges that we face. We share these things so that you can continue to pray with and for us with an understanding of the spectrum of experiences that we live through.

In September of 2023, Joseph and a team of Bible School teachers went out of their way to assist a local Grace Church in purchasing land for their church building. The understanding was that the price for the land had already been negotiated and they were going just to see the land and pay for it. Unfortunately, when they arrived at the location, they were told that the owner of the land lives in Mozambique and was not able to show up. The leaders of the church began to engage other potential landowners as Joseph's team stood there in disbelief, wondering if they were going to reach their destination for the day in time. Unfortunately, when the landowners saw that Joseph's team had come with a vehicle, they hiked their prices, and Joseph's team ended up leaving without making any purchase. Thankfully, later on, the local leadership agreed to purchase another parcel and we just sent funds to support their efforts.



JOSEPH WITH LEADERS OF THE
GRACE CHURCH IN ZAMBIA

In October, the same team planned to open a new Bible School campus close to the border with Mozambique because there were many students from Grace Churches in the area who were interested in



JOSEPH'S BIBLE SCHOOL TEAM WITH BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SOUTHERN MALAWI

being trained for leadership. The team spent a lot of resources to travel there and when they arrived, they received a call saying that all the students from Mozambique (and they were the majority) could no longer make it to the training module. This was painful but they were thankful that they could still teach about a dozen students who did show up. These and many other experiences demonstrate how much we always need God's grace and strength as we serve Him.

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN MAKES A DIFFERENCE

There are so many success stories to share about the women who graduate from the Grace School of Home Economics (GSHE). Sungeni, the graduate with the best score from the 2023 students, found a job at a catering shop and is performing well because of the training she received. She is well-paid and can now take care of her own needs. Gertrude, also a 2023 graduate, is now operating her own business. She sells charcoal, vegetables, and used clothes. The microloans program that Emmanuela and her team run have helped Gertrude on her path to economic freedom. And then there is Grace. She graduated from GSHE in 2022 and has gone on to start her own school! She calls it Home Managers. Grace uses her school to share the knowledge she gained from GSHE in training women from her community to be self-sustaining. She regularly appears on a local TV station (Times TV) with her students to educate the nation of Malawi on self-sustainability for women. **Please join us in thanking the LORD for these and many other women whose lives, families, and communities are being transformed through the work of Emmanuela and her team.**



SUNGENI GRADUATING IN 2023 (LEFT) AND WORKING AT A CATERING SHOP (RIGHT)



GERTRUDE ATTENDING TO BUSINESS (LEFT). GRACE' BUSINESS FLYER (RIGHT)



BLESSINGS TEACHING AN ARTS AND CRAFTS SESSION

2024 IN FOCUS

Please pray for our 2024 ministry plans. Emmanuela and her team started the fifth session of GSHE in January and have registered 21 students. More women wish to join but cannot afford the small tuition that is required. Emmanuela's team is improving the curriculum, and they plan to graduate the current group of students in September. They are thankful for Blessings, a 2021 graduate of GSHE who has now joined their team and is teaching Arts and Crafts.

Joseph is engaged with several administrative duties this year and will be teaching many Bible School classes both in Lilongwe and outside of Lilongwe. Joseph is also auditing an online class on Multicultural teams with many others from the GMI family. This class will end in June. Princess is writing her Primary School general exams in April, and she and Parker will need to move to a new school in August so Princess can begin middle school.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

Joseph, Emmanuela, Princess, and Sammy Parker

Joseph and Emmanuela Asong · c/o GMI Malawi, PO Box 2411 · Lilongwe, MALAWI ·
E-mail: joseph.asong@gracem.org or emmanuela.asong@gracem.org

