

Joseph and Emmanuela Asong

Missio Vibes



March 2022

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Loving greetings from cold and snowy Grand Rapids! We keep you in our thoughts and do pray for God's strength to empower you in your daily tasks.



Our family

When we wrote to you in September last year, we had no idea we would be in the States at this time. The LORD opened a door quickly for us to come to the States in November 2021 and it has been a marathon since then, a rewarding marathon! What a blessing it has been to get to know and fellowship with believers committed to God's grace in Palm Bay (FL), Mobile and Fairhope (AL), and Carter Lake (IA). It has also been a huge blessing reconnecting with brothers and sisters here in the Grand Rapids area. And there is still so much excitement about the ministry in Malawi to share! In April, we look forward to being with the Lord's people in Duncansville (PA), Preakness (NJ), and Long Island (NY). It has been eight years now since we last visited our friends in the state of

Washington. We earnestly pray for this statistic to change soon! **Please thank the LORD for the great travels and conferences He has given us so far. Also pray for the rest of our travels and conference visits. Ask for grace to effectively share our excitement about and passion for what the LORD is doing in Malawi.**

WHY WE CONTINUE TO SERVE AS MISSIONARIES!

As we are sure you know, being a missionary comes with many challenges. When Joseph had COVID last year and thought he was going to die, the thought of dying and leaving his young wife and children in a foreign land traumatized him significantly. In the ten years that we have been serving as missionaries in Malawi, we have only been able to visit family in Cameroon once. Princess and Parker are having a hard time adjusting to homeschooling as we travel in the States because they go to a regular school when we are in Malawi. **We could go on and on but the great news and focus of this letter is that in spite of all these challenges, the Lord has empowered us to make a difference in many lives in Malawi.** This is one of the major reasons why we continue to serve as missionaries even though the challenges are often overwhelming. **Please pray constantly for us and ask the Lord to refresh us, increase His strength in our lives, and boost our passion and excitement for His work in and through us.** Kindly allow us to share a few stories from Malawi that

inspire and encourage us. We believe the stories of these dear brothers and sisters will inspire and encourage you too.

JAMES BANDAH AND YAMIKANI LEFANI

Joseph is the missionary spearheading the ministry of helping the Grace Church in Malawi train godly and capable Christian leaders for our churches in Malawi. Joseph is deeply encouraged by the men and women who have been trained over the years and are now serving effectively in ministry. James Bandah came to know of the Gospel of God's Grace in the early 2000s. In 2004, James traveled from Malawi to neighboring Zambia to be



Mrs. Brandah, their last child (Tupokiwe), and James

trained for ministry. He did only one year of training and Zambia Grace Bible Institute unfortunately closed. James returned to Malawi and continued to use the little he had learned to serve as a pastor. Eight years later, we arrived in Malawi to help the Grace Church in Malawi begin a formal leadership training and theological education program. James soon after

enrolled in Malawi Grace Bible School (MGBS) and graduated last year with his Diploma in Theology. He continues to serve as a pastor and is part of the national leadership of the Grace Church in Malawi. He is also the Director of Training and is currently making sure Malawi Grace Bible School is running even while we are away.

Yamikani Lefani was one of those who first enrolled at MGBS when we began in 2013. We met him in Lilongwe as a



Yamikani in June 2021 after obtaining his Diploma in Theology

young man leading the choir and children's ministry in one of our Lilongwe churches. He too graduated in 2021 with his Diploma in Theology. The neat thing about Yamikani is that Lilongwe has been his home for a long time but recently he told us that the Lord was calling him as a missionary in his own country. After his graduation last year, he left Lilongwe with his family to a Muslim dominated district four hours south of Lilongwe. The Lord is using him and his family there mightily. Yamikani is also one of the national leaders of the Grace Church in Malawi.

KAMWENDO WINNIE AND NTHAMBALA YAMIKANI



Kamwendo Winnie rejoices during her graduation from the Grace School of Home Economics in May 2021

Before enrolling at the Grace School of Home Economics (GSHE), which Emmanuela directs, Kamwendo Winnie ran a hair salon for women, but this business was not successful. After her studies at GSHE and with a small grant from us, she reopened her salon, and she is currently doing very well. With the many mouths to feed in her family, her resurrected business is a serious game changer. Winnie is now so professional in running her business to the extent that people ask the reason for the difference. Because of this, she tells people about GSHE. One of our current students, Nellie, came to GSHE through the testimony of Winnie.

Nthambala Yamikani is an orphan who left school because she had no sponsorship. She could hardly meet up with her basic needs. Since GSHE used to be a complete scholarship program, she enrolled to change the course of her life. Towards the end of her course, she dropped from GSHE when graduating students were asked to pay a graduation fee and for their graduation uniform. Emmanuela noticed her absence and GSHE called her back

and helped her with the funds she needed. She successfully graduated in 2021 and with a small grant from us, she is currently running her own business and taking care of her basic needs. Please pray with and for all the men and women God is transforming through our ministry. Ask that the Lord will continue to enrich their lives and ministries. Due to the increasing intake of women at the Grace School of Home Economics, we now need to build a multipurpose classroom in Lilongwe to accommodate this growth. Please pray that the LORD will provide for this classroom. Also pray that the LORD will provide for a used vehicle for us because what we have



Nthambala Yamikani receives her Certificate during her graduation in May 2021

been using for the past six years no longer works well.

We appreciate you and your support dearly!

Joseph, Emmanuela, Princess and Sammy Parker