



SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Partner in Ministry,

Although we are living in extraordinary times when many communities around the world are drifting even further away from the LORD, we have even greater opportunities to broadcast the good news of God's grace. We are excited to be a part of God's plan in the world today and we are thankful that we are serving by His side!

#### WHAT A YEAR!

Rather than a complaint, this is a praise point: 2023 has been a super busy year so far and it promises to remain a busy and fruitful year! We have moved from one fruitful ministry to another since the year began and we are so thankful to the LORD for these opportunities. There are more stories and testimonies to share than we could possibly fit in a two-page summary. **Kindly join us in praising the LORD for what He has accomplished, and please stand with and for us in praying for more fruit as we target several additional ministry outreaches for the rest of 2023.**

#### ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE POISED FOR GREAT EXPLOITS

For more than ten years now, one of our focus areas has been to assist the Grace Church of Malawi as they train solid Biblical leaders for local churches and assist them with several other ministry endeavors. The LORD is now expanding that same effort to include assisting the Grace Churches in nearby Zimbabwe and neighboring Zambia. In May and June, Dr. Bill Vinton, a fellow Grace Ministries International (GMI) team member in Malawi, organized a leadership training here in Lilongwe, Malawi bringing together key leaders from Grace Churches in Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The leaders from Malawi are those we have been preparing over the years to train others for leadership in Malawi. The leaders from Zimbabwe and Zambia that participated were chosen by their respective churches to develop the Leadership Training and Theological Education efforts in their home countries. The program had 15 men who participated in a two-week training module. For one of these weeks, Joseph trained the men on how to start and run Bible Schools from scratch. Joseph and Bill will continue to assist the men from Zambia and Zimbabwe as they plan to launch their own leadership training and theological education programs. **We cannot overemphasize our appeal for prayers for the Grace Churches in Zambia and Zimbabwe as they plan to take these important steps.**



Joseph teaching during Pastor's Conference as Malongo translates.



Students from a Bible school module taught in Ntaja last April.



Graduation of Bible school teachers from Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN MALAWI: HARVESTING AND PLANTING

It was such a joy in June to ordain the first set of Malawian pastors ministering with the Grace Church of Malawi. Pastors James Bandah, Courtesy Kaline, Davis Balala, and Yamikani Lefani were faithful students at Malawi Grace Bible School for many years. They have shown their commitment to ministry for many years and have demonstrated good Christian character. Seeing them ordained brought everything full circle as they are now fully equipped to train other leaders in Malawi! We are thankful that we can continue to work with them as we help the Grace Church of Malawi grow in its ability to continue with sound leadership training and theological education. The ordination ceremony in June was particularly blessed with the presence of Dr. Sam Vinton as he joined his son, Dr. Bill Vinton, and Joseph, to prepare these men for ordination and to finally ordain them. **Please join us in giving praise!**

## ANOTHER COLORFUL GRADUATION!

On Saturday, August 19th, we had yet another colorful graduation at the Grace School of Home Economics (GSHE). It was a joyful celebration as we sent off 24 women who had been prepared and will now go out to start their own businesses. **Please pray that the LORD will supply the capital they need.** One highlight from the ceremony was the speech made by Stella Olodi, a former graduate of GSHE. She explained to the entire group how helpful her time at GSHE has been for her. **Praise the LORD with us for these victories!**

## WOMEN ON THE MOVE

The story of Stella Olodi is one among many stories of GSHE graduates on the move. After graduating from GSHE a few years ago, Stella set up a tailoring shop. Using the business knowledge she learned from the GSHE, Stella has distinguished herself in the way she runs her business. Besides making clothes, Stella sells tailoring supplies in her shop. She also makes and supplies snacks for other shops and occasions. Because of this, she is being celebrated by her husband, family, and community.

Stella came to GSHE from a church in Lilongwe and she plans to teach women from her church some of the things she learned from GSHE so they too can make a difference in their lives, families, and communities. Recently, Stella shared that the demand for her products had become so high that the capital she invested in her business could no longer meet the demand as she had started her business with limited funds. This was an opportunity for us to provide her with additional capital so that she could increase her supply. Just as with Stella, Emmanuela continues to follow up and mentor GSHE graduates who are currently involved in business ventures. Whenever the need presents itself, we assist these graduates by providing them with a little more capital to grow their businesses. We have also seen some GSHE graduates acquire cleaning jobs at a university and a lodge because of the course on housekeeping they took while at GSHE. We keep tabs on them too for encouragement and continuing mentorship.

We appreciate you and your support dearly!

Joseph, Emmanuela, Princess, and Sammy Parker.



Emmanuela presents a certificate to a graduate.



Emmanuela checking in on Stella in her shop.

(Lower) Stella speaking at graduation.



Teachers and graduates from the Grace School of Home Economics graduation.



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