



Method & Omelina Mwendapole

Serving with Grace Ministries International

February 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

Our Mighty God has filled us with joy and provided strength as we begin another year of serving Him in Burundi. We are so thankful for your partnership with us in this ministry and want to share with you all that the Lord has accomplished and enabled us to do for His glory in 2024. Your financial support, encouragement, and prayers have been very important tools for sustaining us in God's service. Thank you also for praying for our son Emmanuel who was excited to receive his first Christmas gift from the US this year. As I think of you and your generosity I remember the words of the Apostle Paul to the believers in Corinth when he says **"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God."** (2 Cor 9: 12 ESV) Thank you for loving us and giving sacrificially to meet our needs. May the Lord bless you richly!

Ministry Updates

Language studies - Competently speaking the local languages in Burundi is important for being effective in ministry. We continue to focus on learning Kirundi, which is the national language of Burundi, through working with tutors and practicing in the marketplace. At this point, we can introduce seminar topics in Kirundi before switching to Tanzanian Swahili. When teaching Bible Correspondence Fellowship (BCF) lessons we use the Kirundi translation of the lessons and the Bible alongside the Swahili versions.

Church partnerships - We continue to partner with three small denominations in Burundi teaching leadership seminars and BCF lessons in their churches. We believe this activity falls equally under church planting and theological education as we share the gospel of God's grace from a mid-Acts dispensational perspective and teach sound doctrine and theology in churches where the pastors and leaders have had little theological training.

Community Development

Orphan Outreach - During the past year twenty-three orphans received assistance with food, school materials, and medical care. We also help street children and orphans continue their schooling. During the Christmas season, we distributed food to the poor in several neighborhoods around Bujumbura assisting fifty families of street kids and orphans. Members of Grace Bible Church are assisting with this outreach program to orphans in their local community. Your generous support is making an impact and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to this project!

Women's Outreach - During the past year, Omelina has taught basic sewing, knitting, and handicraft skills to women in local churches affiliated with GMI in Burundi. In addition, three sewing machines were gifted to families caring for orphans so they could earn an income and provide for the children. This year Omelina plans to start a sewing instruction program for unwed mothers who are especially vulnerable as they are typically teenagers who lack education and life skills.

Beekeeping - In June, Method plans to take four men from Burundi to the Rukwa Valley



Providing a hand powered bicycle to a disabled boy



TOP: BCF Lesson Translation

BOTTOM: Katumba Bible Study GBC



in Tanzania for beekeeping and arborist skills training with GMI team member Ted Rabenold.

Theological/Leadership Training

Translation work - Twenty of the thirty-five Bible Correspondence Fellowship (BCF) lessons have been translated into Kirundi, with an additional twenty-seven one-page lessons completed. Lessons are also being translated into Tanzanian Swahili and Congolese Swahili for use by GMI-affiliated churches in those countries. We are pleased that the theological teachings of these lessons are taking root among our translators, which is a major secondary benefit to this work as the translators are all in leadership positions in their home churches.

Bible study using BCF lessons - We supervise the teaching of BCF lessons with four groups of students in different parts of the metro Bujumbura area in partnership with two local churches. BCF lessons are used as a systematic way of training and discipling students who feel called to become leaders in the church and to identify those who may be ready to enroll in the Bible Institute. We expect to have a fifth Bible study group begin in one of the other denominations we work with in the next few months. We are hoping to start Berean Bible Institute-Burundi in September of this year and our GMI team in Burundi is working to prepare the curriculum for the start of classes.

BBI Certificate of Dispensational Studies - Method recently completed a Certificate of Dispensational Studies degree from Berean Bible Institute (BBI) in Wisconsin to strengthen his theological training. BBI is an affiliated ministry that GMI partners with to provide Biblical and Theological training for our team members. This additional certification will lend credibility to our training programs in Burundi.

Seminars - We conducted four seminars during 2023 partnering with two of the church groups we are working with in Burundi. The topics included leadership, salvation, and an introduction to understanding God's Word from a dispensational perspective. Omelina taught two seminars to help organize leaders for women's ministry in these same two denominations. Later this year we hope to organize a youth leadership conference to help churches begin youth ministries. We will also continue to lead seminars introducing BCF lessons, basic mid-Acts doctrinal teaching, and basic leadership skills. We also desire to bring these seminars to other denominations that have not yet hosted a seminar.

We praise the Lord for his faithfulness which has allowed us to complete three years of service in Burundi. Rather than planting new GMI-affiliated churches here, we found it more effective to connect with churches and pastors that have little or no theological training and are open to receiving training from our GMI Team. As previously mentioned, we are already working with three registered denominations that have agreed to have us provide their pastors with theological training from a mid-Acts dispensational perspective. In this way, God has allowed us to help established churches in Burundi grow in their understanding of God's Word and sound doctrine.

You may recall from our last letter that Omelina had some health issues which resulted in us traveling to Tanzania for treatment. She had surgery in Tanzania last September and stayed there for an additional two months following surgery to recover. It was a difficult time for us and we are very grateful to God for His great work in healing Omelina. She is doing well overall but still has some occasional weakness and abdominal pain. We are thankful to everyone who prayed for us and also to those who helped us with our medical expenses.

In Christ,

Method and Omelina Mwendapole

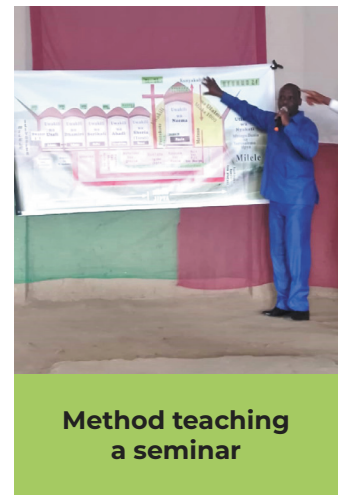


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**Method teaching
a seminar**



Please Continue Praying for:

- **Good health so we can continue serving the Lord in Burundi.**
- **Continued progress and success in learning Kirundi.**
- **The BCF program as we continue the work of translating lessons into Kirundi and Swahili.**
- **The establishment of the Berean Bible Institute of Burundi. We are asking the Lord to provide both the curriculum and the necessary funding to start this program.**
- **The orphan and street kids ministry asking God to enable us to help fifty children this year.**