



Method & Omelina Mwendapole

Serving through GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Dear friends in Christ!

The days are flying by and it's hard to believe there are only four months left in the year. We thank God for His kindness, mercy, and love for us. We thank all of you who have supported us in our ministry in Burundi through your monthly gifts and your prayers. *You have truly been a blessing to us! We pray that God continues to richly bless and protect you and your families.*

**DESPITE ALL THESE BLESSINGS**, Satan is still very active and we see him at work as we face battles in our spiritual and physical lives. Omelina has been suffering from physical weakness and has been diagnosed with some issues related to her reproductive system and is now undergoing treatment. Method has also had some physical struggles with back pain that is likely a result of hours spent in the car traveling on bad roads. As we travel in rural areas, the rough roads and lack of good sleeping accommodations have taken a toll on our bodies. When these trials hit us, we are encouraged by these words from Scripture: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20: 24

**BUT I DO NOT ACCOUNT MY LIFE  
OF ANY VALUE NOR AS PRECIOUS  
TO MYSELF, IF ONLY I MAY FINISH  
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THAT I RECEIVED FROM THE LORD  
JESUS, TO TESTIFY TO THE GOSPEL  
OF THE GRACE OF GOD.**

Acts 20:24

**OUR ADOPTED SON EMMANUEL** was having difficulty in completing his secondary studies, so in March of this year, we enrolled him in a school where he could learn to be a mechanic. **CELINA**, our granddaughter, is progressing well with her studies now and is in the second grade. As you may recall our family has remained in Tanzania under the supervision of our daughter **ELIZABETH**, and at times we find it challenging to care for them from such a distance. Please uplift our family in prayer and pray that our son will thrive in his new school.

**WE THANK GOD FOR** the many ways he has blessed us and the ministries in which we are involved. The Bible Correspondence lessons we are using to ground students in the Word are having a great impact. The number of students has increased significantly and we now have five active Bible study groups that meet regularly. We have also created a syllabus for these lessons and some of the churches here in Bujumbura (Grace Bible Church-Burundi and Vision Pentecostal Church)

*Bible Study at Vision Church*





Ministry Training at Grace Bible Church



Youth leaders seminar in Bujumbura



Some of the children who receive support through our Orphan and Street Children Ministry

are using them in their own Bible study groups. As we have worked with these churches over the past few years, we have seen a significant shift in their theology as it becomes more aligned with the Word of God and the doctrinal beliefs of Grace Ministries International (GMI).

**WE ARE ALSO SEEING GOD MOVE** in the youth in these churches and they have demonstrated a real desire to meet together to learn and grow in their faith. They have even started to plan their own youth conference. Working with these churches has been a tremendous encouragement to us and we are thankful for the opportunity to join with them in ministry. Although the Kirundi language is still a challenge for us, working with these churches has helped us learn the language more quickly than we would have in just a classroom setting. Since our last letter, we have had the opportunity to visit both urban and rural churches, teaching seminars for leaders and the doctrine of salvation in many churches.

**WE HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO SERVE** the community around us through various outreach activities. Through our ministry to street children and orphans, we continue to make an impact by meeting some of their basic needs which has helped them stay in school and continue their studies. Omelina continues to work with women teaching them skills such as knitting and sewing that they can use to help support themselves and their families. Three of the families that care for the orphans we are helping have started attending Sunday services at Grace Bible Church. We thank God for touching their hearts and giving them the desire to seek God as a result of our ministry to these children.

**WE CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED** in theological education through the Mwanza Pastor's School in Tanzania and the students there are progressing well. The current students have finished seven semesters of instruction and have only two semesters left to complete their studies. We are looking forward to launching Berean Bible Institute-Burundi in September of this year and our GMI team in Burundi is working hard to prepare the curriculum for the first courses.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Method and Omelina Mwendapole*

### *Please join us in praying for*

1. The preparation for and launch of Berean Bible Institute - Burundi
2. The successful translation of the Bible Correspondence lessons into the Kirundi language so that students can learn in their primary language.
3. Bibles for our students as many cannot readily afford them.
4. Our health, especially Omelina as she continues to undergo treatment.
5. Our family in Tanzania.



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