



c/o GMI, PO Box 9405, Grand Rapids, MI 49509

February 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Mwanza, Tanzania! Some of you may not know us personally so we would like to introduce ourselves. We are Method and Omelina Mwendapole, Tanzanians currently living and serving the Lord Jesus Christ in northern Tanzania as church planters in the city of Mwanza and the surrounding areas along Lake Victoria. We were married in 1988, and we have been blessed with four daughters and one adopted son who was an orphan. Our two older daughters, Hekima and Martha, are both married, and our third daughter, Grace, will be getting married in June of this year. Our last daughter, Elizabeth, is a student in college studying Community Development. Our adopted son, Emmanuel, is finishing primary school this year.



Method with the current Mwanza area leaders of six congregations of the Grace Churches in Tanzania

The God Who is Faithful

It was January 3, 2015. The day had finally arrived for our next move in pursuit of God's call on our lives, this time to the city of Mwanza. As we got on the bus we pondered how our excitement had turned to bewilderment: How could God allow half of all of our belongings to be stolen on the day we took this big step of faith to follow His call to a place far from our home? Moments before, we had a choice to make.

For two years we had been working towards this goal. People had prayed and many had given towards our transport costs. We didn't know for sure how we would live, but we were going. A single struggling church had sent word of their need for leadership training and help in planting other churches. After much prayer we had accepted that call from God.

Before getting on the bus early in the morning, we had loaded all of our earthly belongings in a big truck bound for Mwanza. Afterwards we saw to other preparations. That morning we passed by the truck transporter's garage only to find that half of our things had been stolen off of the truck. We had already spent all the money we had for transport on the truck and bus tickets. Should we stay and pursue those who had stolen our belongings and give up our bus tickets? Should we just get on the bus? If we stayed, would we ever make it to Mwanza?

These questions swirled in our heads. Omelina and I knelt and prayed to the God of the Universe. It was a spiritual battle; Satan did not want us to go. Then we stood up and got on the bus. Now five years later, six congregations of the Grace Churches in Tanzania exist, and we have trained nearly 30 men and women in the Mwanza Bible School. God is faithful!

Our Background

Method received Jesus as his Saviour in 1978 through the preaching of the Grace Churches in Tanzania. After finishing primary school in 1983, he became involved in different ministries in the church, such as overseeing the church choir and later serving as an elder. In 1985, Omelina put her faith in Christ. After getting married, they moved to the town of Sumbawanga and began ministering together with a number of former GMI missionaries, including Ken and Kathy Kemper (now President of Grace Christian University) and Daniel and Tina Moyer. In 1992, they entered Tanzania Grace Bible Institute (TGBI) to study pastoral ministry. After finishing at TGBI in 1995, Method went on to finish his secondary education. Then in 2013 he studied at a missionary training school in Zambia to prepare for their move to Mwanza. For the past two years, Method has been studying online courses through Berean Bible Institute in Wisconsin.

Since Omelina and Method both graduated from Bible college in 1995, they have been in full-time ministry serving in many different capacities, including working as a youth pastor; church planter; National Director of Evangelism with former GMI missionaries Tim and Debbe Meier; National Youth Director with GMI missionary Brook Seekins; Bible School Administrator with GMI missionaries Steve and Barb Sherman; and as a top leader of the National Church. Throughout this time Omelina has worked with women's and children's ministries in local churches, as well as taking care of the many responsibilities that go with being a pastor's wife. For the past five years, they have been working as missionaries and church planters in the Mwanza region of Tanzania.



Omelina teaching children



Method teaching Bible school



Graduation 2018

Our New Calling—Burundi!

We believe God has blessed us with the gifts of evangelism and teaching. During all of our years of ministry God has placed a burden on our hearts for unbelievers and the unreached. We have decided to join Grace Ministries International (GMI) believing that we can fulfill our calling from God as missionaries with GMI to bring the gospel to the lost. Now we are asking God to provide for us in order that we may go to the country of Burundi in August of this year. In order to reach the people of Burundi with the gospel, we are entrusting the following goals to God:

1. To evangelize individuals and form them into local churches.
2. To establish a Bible school in order to train leaders for these churches.
3. To disciple and mentor leaders as they begin to minister in the churches.
4. To help orphans and street children in the city of Bujumbura as a way to reach the people of Burundi with God's Word.

Some Prayer Requests

- Pray for God to raise up a team to support us in prayer and also financially, so we will be able to go to Bujumbura, Burundi, in August of this year.
- Before we go, we need to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding with an organization that will allow us to work under them so we can legally minister in Burundi. Pray that this is completed before August.
- Pray that we succeed in registering Grace Ministries International in Burundi.
- Pray for peace in the national election in Burundi which will be taking place in May 2020.
- Pray for our family back home in Tanzania.