

Sharing Gods Grace with the World



Method and Omelina Mwendapole

Missionaries serving through GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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Greetings to you all in Jesus Christ

This last year was full of many challenges. The advent of covid has changed the way of life greatly. People being prevented from assembling together has greatly affected our new ministry here in Burundi. That people were not able to meet together as well as the closure of some businesses caused many people to falter financially. My wife and I contracted this disease, but we are so thankful to God for healing us. We are now in good health and we are continuing with His ministry. May you pray for us that God will continue to protect us and continue to give us the desire and ability to serve Him even in these challenges.

It is now almost one year and four months since we started serving in Bujumbura, Burundi. Ministry is not easy, but we see God working through us. We want to thank all of our partners who support our ministry. You are a part of the team who encourages us. May God bless you in every part of your life. In all things we are able to say as the Apostle Paul said, *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”* (Ephesians 3:20)

What we are doing

BIBLE STUDY: We are striving to reach the stage of church planting in Bujumbura. The Bible study program is one way to help us reach this goal. So far, this class is progressing well, and we are hoping that this year through this class we will start Sunday worship. *May God guide us in reaching this point which includes properly registering a church in Burundi.*

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP:

This ministry is still going well, and the number of students has increased to 30. We are now facing the challenge of not having copies of these lessons in Kirundi. Most of the students we have are those who understand Swahili. But now many would like to learn in Kirundi which is their heart language. So there is a need to work on translation at a faster pace. The greatest need is finding capable translators to do this work. *Pray for us about this need. This approach would help us to do church planting as well as prepare leaders for “Grace Church in Burundi.”*



Pastors studying the Bible in Mwanza, Tanzania.



Pastors from the churches in and around Mwanza.



Omelina teaching women to sew.



Children wearing uniforms sewn by Omelina's sewing class.

MWANZA PASTOR TRAINING: We are also involved in the pastor training program in Mwanza, Tanzania and want to see the theology program continue to educate pastors to increase their ability to serve God. Last year we were unable to start the study due to lack of funds, but after the donations for this Christmas project, God blessed us enough to get it started. So, at the end of December, the training started. In March the pastors will have completed the first semester. We thank all those who contributed to this Christmas project. God bless you so much.

Please pray with us for the resources we need to complete this training. You should also continue to pray for the teachers for the hard work they are doing which has kept them away from their families for the three months working in Mwanza. You should also pray for students that these teachings transform their lives and help them become better leaders.

KIRUNDI CLASS: We need to understand this language sooner rather than later, so now we have started a new system of learning and we aim by July of this year to be able to teach and preach in Kirundi. *May God help us to achieve this goal.*

DISCIPLESHIP: We are planning to have leadership training courses. We have seven men who we would like to start training in April. *May God help to give us wisdom as we disciple these men.*

Lastly, we thank God for His many blessings in our ministry, and even if we have challenges like sickness and language problems. We are very happy to continue serving God in Burundi. Thank you for impacting our lives and ministry with your gifts. We ask that you continue to pray for us and continue to support these ministries moving forward.

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Method and Omelina Mwendapole

ORPHANS: In order to reach more families and help society in Burundi, we have planned to start an orphan and street children ministry. Since we received donations from our Christmas project, we now have the ability to start helping orphans who are eager to study at school but have not been able to do so. Right now, we are able to help a total of seven children. Their uniforms and some of the clothes they are wearing are sewn by our sewing class. On the day of handing over various aid items to the children, we invited them to come with their caregivers to our office in the city. That day, we shared God's Word with them and played games together. *Pray that God will reveal His love to them through these gifts to their families.*

SEWING MACHINE CLASS: Omelina is continuing with women's ministry by teaching handcrafts. We have purchased four sewing machines and we still need one more. So far there are four students who are about to finish their studies of sewing and then will start helping Omelina teach families caring for orphans how to sew. *Also pray for these four students who are also taking Bible correspondence lessons to learn more about God's grace.*



Method (far left), Omelina (far right) and their co-worker, Tom Sanchez (middle), with the children they are serving.