

GMAW



GRACE MINISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

Keeping you
praying for
and informed
about GMI

• **In Bonaire**, GMI team members Carlos and Denise Brunk started an evangelism and discipleship ministry at a local high school in October. Twenty-four attended the first event. From these 24 who heard the gospel, 13 indicated they would return the next week to participate in a 12-week discipleship program. Much to the Brunks' surprise, 25 showed up for the first week!



Paraguay church—after the remodeling project

• **Serving in Burundi**, the GMI team of Tom and Michelle Sanchez and Method and Omelina Mwendapole held a two-day seminar in the capital, Bujumbura. Twenty-one attended the seminar which introduced the participants to prison ministry, Bible Correspondence Fellowship (BCF), and dispensational theology. The team was encouraged by the turnout and hopes this first seminar will be the beginning of a prison ministry. In order to use the BCF materials in prisons and as a resource to teach the Bible throughout Burundi, the GMI team added two more translators to speed up the process of getting the lessons into Kirundi.

• **The GMI Panama team** is seeing growth in their Sunday services! In spite of meeting restrictions imposed over the last couple of years, adults and youth are meeting at the Barrantes' home in David, Panama, to worship together, study the Bible, and enjoy a meal. Four families, some young adults, and several children from the neighborhood attend these meetings. Soon, they anticipate renting a facility to accommodate their growing church plant. The long-range goal is to buy property where they can meet together as a congregation and use it for a ministry and outreach center.

• **The Paraguay church remodeling project** is looking great! After spending a few weeks holding services at parks and in other venues while crews finished the work inside, the congregation is once again meeting in their building which is full each Sunday morning. Now the team is looking to plant a second church in the city of Franco which is on the southern side of the Ciudad del Este metropolitan area.

• **Also in Paraguay**, GMI team members Sandi Bomers and Kim Hodgson continue to teach Eng-



Paraguay church—before the remodeling project

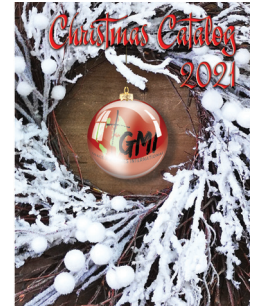


Cleiton Menor, Rodrigo, and prison inmates on a recent visit to the prison

lish at the church which provides an opportunity to get to know people from the congregation and others at a deeper level. Cleiton and Viviane Menor, the newest members of the GMI team in Paraguay, are seeing the attendees of their Portuguese-speaking Bible study grow in their faith and their understanding of the Word of God. In addition, Cleiton recently visited a prison along with Rodrigo, a Paraguayan believer, whose family works in the National Department of Justice. Through this connection, Cleiton gained access to the jails to have services and to offer Bible studies to the inmates.

• **The Bolivian Bible school**, el Centro Bíblico de la Gracia, has nearly 60 students taking classes! The center is preparing leaders, cross-cultural workers, and pastors. Currently, six men are in the ordination process in Bolivia. They are taking written and oral Bible and theology exams as part of the requirements to be ordained by Misión Evangélica Bethesda—the association of churches in Bolivia affiliated with GMI in the country. These will be the first men ordained as pastors in the history of the MEB! Also, 80 women recently gathered for a conference in Santa Cruz where the majority of the GMI-affiliated churches are located. Cathy Hansen, a member of our GMI team in Bolivia, was one of the speakers.

• **Christmas Catalog 2021-2022.** The GMI Christmas project catalog is in the mail! If you do not receive one and would like to do so, please contact GMI (gmi@gracem.org, 616-241-5666). Our team serving around the world submitted nearly 40 projects designed to promote the gospel and to train others for life and ministry. You can also find these projects online by visiting gracem.org, clicking on the "Projects" tab and selecting "2021 Christmas Catalog" from the options on the right-hand side of the page. We are grateful for your generous gifts in previous years which have encouraged our teams as they look forward to each new year by starting the projects you have funded.



• **Home Office Transitions.** In the last edition of GMAW it was announced that Don Ten Hoewe was retiring from GMI after serving over 15 years as the Director of Field Operations. While it is impossible to replace him, GMI has hired Cliff Tulsie to invest in our global team as the GMI Team Care Coordinator. Cliff has been a pastor, worked as a licensed mental health practitioner for 20 years, and has served on the GMI Board. He has visited many of our fields and knows our global team well. With his experience, education, and talents, he is a great fit for our U.S.-based home office as we facilitate the work of our teams around the world as they serve the Lord to share His grace with the nations. January 1 is Cliff's official start date.



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