



**Method & Omelina Mwendapole**

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

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**G**reetings to you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus! This past year, we've seen many changes in our lives. Since 2015, we have been working as tentmaker missionaries under the Grace Church of Tanzania and moved from Sumbawanga, Tanzania, to Mwanza, Tanzania, to begin a new work.

We lived for almost six years in Mwanza before becoming missionaries with Grace Ministries International. God has used us to start six churches in the ministry of church planting in Mwanza. We ran a Bible school for three years and more than 20 pastors graduated from Bible school. God gave our family and the ministry many blessings during that time. Please pray for the ministry in Mwanza to continue growing in our absence.

After joining GMI, we believe that God was calling us to serve him in Burundi as missionaries in church planting. God provided us with a vehicle which enabled us to move from Mwanza to Bujumbura, Burundi, on November 13, 2020, where my wife and I are now living. We want to thank all of our supporters for their kindness, monthly support, and prayers for us during this change in our lives. May God bless you and provide for you more and more.

Since our arrival in Bujumbura, we have been studying Kirundi which is the local language. We attend language class three times per week. We thank God because we found that Kiswahili, which is our language, is used by many people. Because of that, I started teaching some people who speak Swahili using a Bible correspondence program. Until now, we have had 13 students registered in the course, and eight of them continue to do well. We also started a Bible study with eight families, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have stopped meeting together in the small room at our house. Please pray for our Bible study to continue in a larger space. Our language class also stopped because our teacher became ill with Covid-19. We are waiting for him to recover and come out of quarantine.



*Our orphan and street children ministry*

Our vision for Burundi is to plant churches that teach God's grace, discipleship, and prepare Burundians to lead Grace Church-Burundi. Our biggest challenge is the lack of theology books explaining the grace of God in the Kirundi language, so we need to start translating books from English or Swahili into Kirundi and French. In the coming year we plan to start a Bible school to train pastors. We need to begin the process of registering Grace Church-Burundi which will require a Burundian who is ready to head the ministry. We also plan to register GMI-Burundi as our non-governmental organization (NGO). For now, my wife and I are working under ATS-BURUNDI, a private NGO that has offered to cover us temporarily.

In order to reach the wider community, we are starting an orphan and street children ministry which is a big problem in Bujumbura. Last month we visited an orphanage and helped with food that we brought to them. We also visited women who are prostitutes and shared with them the Word of God. More than seventeen women came to Jesus. My wife Omelina is planning to teach the women sewing and tailoring so they will be able to support themselves. Please pray for these ministries that God would give us wisdom and the finances to continue and expand this work. These ministries will reach unbelievers with the gospel of Grace.

We continue to oversee the ministry we left in Mwanza, Tanzania, and would like to help Bible students start pastor training school. There are 20 leaders in Mwanza who have finished Bible school and need to continue with pastor training school. We have arranged to transport the teachers from Tanzania Grace Bible Institute from Mumba to Mwanza to start the pastor training school. Please pray for this ministry. If you'd like to help, please see GMI's Christmas Catalog at [gracem.org](http://gracem.org) for a description of the project and how to contribute to this important work.

Although Omelina and I now live in Bujumbura, the rest of our family remains in Tanzania until 2022. We found that there are major differences in the school curriculum between Tanzania and Burundi, so our youngest children, Emmanuel (grade one) and Celina (standard one), attend boarding school in Tanzania. They will come to see us at their mid-term breaks. Our married daughters, Grace and Elizabeth, are expecting and are due in March and April respectively. Please pray for our family as it is not easy for us to be separated.

Lastly, we want to thank our mighty God for His protection and the way He is providing for us in the ministry He has called us to. Also, we thank Him for completing our missionary team with the arrival of Tom and Michelle Sanchez who are now in Bujumbura. It encourages us so much, even if we are still in need of more missionaries to come and work with us.

I wish to say as the apostle Paul says, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" Acts 20:24.

Yours,

*Method and Omelina Mwendapole*

### ***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 successfully minister in Bujumbura, Burundi
- Pray that we succeed in registering Grace Ministries International in Burundi.
- Pray for Tom and Michelle Sanchez, our team members who have just arrived in Bujumbura, as they get settled in their new home and adjust to life here
- Pray for our family back home in Tanzania. It is hard for us to be separated.
- Pray for more missionaries to come and work in Bujumbura, Burundi.
- Pray for God's mighty protection on the ministry He has called us to.