



# The Sherman Safari



News of Our Mission to Africa – 2 Timothy 2:2

May 2017

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ! For us it has been a year of change. Since October we have been focused on church planting in the Mwanza region of Tanzania together with Pastor Methodi and his wife Omelina.



*Preaching at the Nyashimba church*

Barb and Omelina have worked tirelessly in heading up the children's and women's ministries at the Nyangulugulu church plant and during our Christmas and Easter conferences.



Most of our previous ministry had been working with mature church leaders so it required some adjustment to work full-time on

the frontlines of evangelism and church planting. We discovered that there are so many things we take for granted in our Christian experience that others do not know -- Who is God? How do you pray? Where is Genesis in the Bible? How does God want us to live? Church planting requires a lot of commitment! However, what a joy it is to see new believers grow in their new faith.



*Teaching Bible study at the Nyangulugulu church plant*



*Preaching at the Igadya church plant*







*Omelina and Barb with the Nyangulugulu women's group*

After two years of work by Pastor Methodi and his wife, and with our help for these last seven months, we now have one established church and four church plants. We have also finished building a Bible School/Ministry Center (minus some of the fence and a gate) and are making plans for getting the Bible School started as we have an immense need to train leaders to help in these church plants.



*Bible School/Ministry Center in the city*



*Mwankuba Church Plant*



*The leaders from all 5 churches*

Many of you are aware that in December a problem developed in the organizational relationship between the National Church in Tanzania and Grace Ministries International (GMI) that resulted in three of our missionary families being kicked out of the country. The process of reconciliation is ongoing, but when our residence visa expired in late April we were forced to return home to the States until these issues could be worked out.

Though for us there are many concerns and unanswered questions, we are choosing to view this sudden change as an opportunity and a blessing. We will be living in the Grand Rapids area for one year where Steve is thrilled with the opportunity to work full time on writing, translating, editing, and formatting Swahili literature. We have 47 books that need to be printed in Tanzania and made available for free download on the internet. This was already a part of our job description, but it was very hard to devote much time to it when faced with the daily challenges of church planting.

In addition, we welcome the opportunity to be near our extended family and to have our two adult children live with us for the year. Steve will also be used by GMI to conduct some survey trips into possible new fields with the first trip being to Ghana, West Africa, in the early fall.

Thank you for your wonderful prayers and support.

Please be in prayer for the National Church/GMI relationship and all of our Tanzania missionaries whose futures are uncertain.

Pray for Methodi and Omelina as they continue this new work in Mwanza.

Pray that God would raise up strong leaders for these new churches.

Pray that we would use this time in the States to heal and to produce some much needed literature.

In Christ,  
The Shermans