



# The Sherman Safari



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

May 2018

Greetings to you, our wonderful supporters and prayer partners.

### Literature Development Project

In our society of information overload it is hard for us to imagine the value a Tanzanian sees in quality Christian books for personal growth and as ministry tools. We are constantly asked by Tanzanian church leaders about our progress in writing, translating, and editing Swahili books. Some have offered to help check the grammar since they are so interested in making these books available. Every day in my office at Celebration Bible Church, when the tedium sets in, I am spurred on by the knowledge that these books are valued and will have a great impact on the church in East Africa for many years to come. We have finished eleven books so far (pictured below) and are currently working on two larger books. One is Dr. Sam Vinton's 400-page systematic theology. We have already

completed a section and Dr. Sam was just in Tanzania working with a group of Tanzanians to make sure it addresses their needs and is understandable.

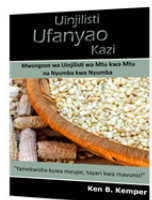
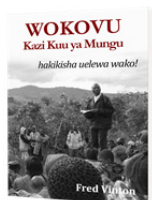
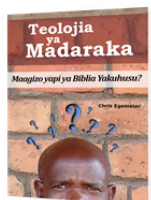
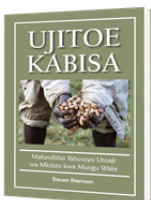
This week we begin the process of printing our first book with a printing company in Tanzania. Pray that the process goes well and that the final product is of professional quality.

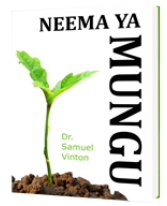
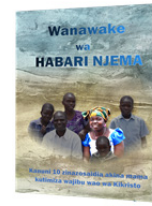
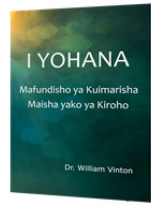
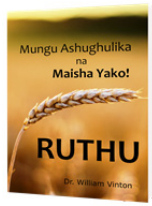
We can't wait to get our website launched. It is already built but we are waiting to get a few more books back from our final Swahili checkers in Tanzania. We do not want to launch without a minimum of ten books. The website will make all of our books available for free download. When we get back to Tanzania next year and are able to print more books and set up systems of distribution, we will then sell printed copies online as well.

We ask for your prayers as we continue this exciting but daunting project over the next couple of years.



We ask that you pray for our ministry colleagues in Mwanza – Pastor and Mrs. Methodi and Omelina Mwendapole. They have been carrying the burden of the Mwanza ministry with our absence this year. Evangelism, church planting, and leadership training are their passions and they are succeeding in Mwanza. Pray for their strength as the work is tiring. Pray for their protection against the schemes of Satan.





### *What does the future hold?*

With all of the turmoil on the Tanzanian field you may be wondering about our plans. Our plans are somewhat contingent on the decisions of others but in the short term we will return to Tanzania in July for a three-month visit which is all that our visa status will allow. During that time we will be working with the printers in the capital, doing some teaching and preaching in Mwanza, helping TGBI to print materials in the Rukwa for its Bible Schools, and hopefully participating in a process of reconciliation between the church and GMI.

There has been very little change in the organizational relationship between the church and GMI this year but we are praying that it will begin to change. On June 8 the Grace Church of Tanzania is supposed to have an election with the possibility of choosing new leaders. We are asking you to pray with us that through this election we will see some changes that lead to GMI working closely with the Grace Church of Tanzania again. If there is any change over the summer we would like to submit applications for a work permit and residence visa to the Tanzanian government before we return to the U.S. in October. The permit and visa take about 6 months and we must be outside of the country while it is processed. We will therefore return to the U.S. and keep working on Swahili books until we can, Lord willing, return to Tanzania in 2019. We ask that you pray for our trip this summer, for the church elections, and for reconciliation between the church and GMI.



### *Leadership Training*

Pictured above Methodi is teaching at our Mwanza Bible School. We praise God that we have seven students who have finished six of eight modules. By the time we arrive in Tanzania they will have finished their studies and Steve will speak at their graduation in August.

We continue to be involved in TGBI's Pastoral College as well as its nine Bible Schools through communication, planning, provision of materials and financial aid. The present pastoral students have finished two of three years and four of the Bible Schools taught modules this year. We ask that you pray for the successful continuation of these schools as they train leaders for the Grace Church of Tanzania.

### *Church Planting*

Steve and Methodi communicate almost daily about the church planting work in Mwanza. This year has seen some good progress as well as a few set backs. With one church, four church plants, and a Bible School, there are a lot of things to juggle. We are succeeding in training local leaders and growing the four church plants. We have four church buildings and five church plots. So far, however, a fifth church planting effort has proven unsuccessful and one of our three church buildings was knocked down in a recent storm (pictured below).



Thanks again for your prayers and support. We are truly blessed to have you as partners in ministry.

Steve and Barb Sherman