



Serving with Grace Ministries International in Tanzania

December 2023

## WANAWAKE WA HABARI NJEMA

Dear Prayer Partners;

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am honored and humbled to be writing to you as 2023 draws to a close and we celebrate the birth of our Savior. It is such a blessing and miracle to witness His mercies every day. I am encouraged by Philippians 4:13: "...I can do everything through him who gives me strength..." Indeed the Lord has been faithful the entire year; may His holy name be praised always.

My focus this year has been on introducing women to the concept of meeting together regularly and encouraging them to make a greater commitment to God's work in their lives. In the Mbeya region alone, there are five women's groups that come together once a month for prayer and Bible studies. The local pastors and church leaders have been very helpful and I am thankful they have allowed me to conduct this ministry.



In addition, the Leadership Council of the Grace Church in Tanzania has agreed to hold a national women's gathering every year. During this conference, women from all of the Grace Churches in Tanzania will come together to hear Biblical teaching, be encouraged, and share testimonies of how the Lord is working in their lives. Everyone in attendance will dress in the same attire as a symbol of our unity and oneness, which will greatly encourage the women.

In addition to facilitating women's groups and planning a national conference, I have been busy counseling women on how to build strong marriages and be successful homemakers. It has become a custom within our churches for women to meet for our Women of Good News Bible studies on Fridays. We also take time to visit women in their homes to encourage them and learn how they live which has been very productive for our ministry. This provides direction on what to focus on when we meet for studies.



An educated, godly woman is what makes the house a home. For this reason, I invest time in teaching women about general health issues, good hygiene, Biblical morals, etc., equipping women to thrive in their homes and with their families. The Lord is indeed doing marvelous things in the lives of these women. Many have started their own businesses to help support their families such as raising chickens and using other skills they have been taught to enhance their lives.

As a mother and someone who has been trained as a midwife, I have helped many women overcome their fears related to giving birth and raising children, especially young mothers. Many women have never been taught how to care for their homes and families and our ministry has proven to be very valuable in strengthening families in Tanzania.

Additionally, having suffered the loss of my husband has helped me to encourage women who have also experienced the loss of a loved one. Through offering seminars and gatherings for women who have experienced the loss of a family member we have encouraged them and helped heal their wounds.

### **I have also been busy with travel. Here are some highlights of my ministry trips:**

- I led a three-day women's seminar in the town of Sumbawanga in June.
- In July I traveled to the Rukwa region to a village called Kaoze for three days. Due to this being a mountainous region with poor roads, travel was difficult. This was the first time our group was able to visit them and they were greatly encouraged.
- In October I went to the village of Lula. We had three powerful days of meetings and had various committee members from the national church in attendance.

In all the areas in which we visited, the community expressed their desire for more of these meetings and they are looking forward to next year.

I am also privileged to work with fellow GMI team members John and Naomi Caprari here in Mbeya. They are good company and we get together to share ideas and meals and to encourage one another in ministry.

### **Challenges:**

In Tanzania, difficulties are expected and are not the exception to the life of a missionary. I typically travel with one or two other women who work with me in women's ministry. Mrs. Martha Simaye is one of the women who is very dedicated to the ministry and is always ready to travel with me to do ministry. When we travel I provide the transportation, food, and accommodations. I am very thankful for the company and encouragement she gives me. She endures the hardship of traveling on bumpy roads and sleeping on the floor with me. Additionally, traveling to far-off regions requires that we supply food for the groups of women that gather to be ministered to and learn about being godly women.

### **Prayer requests:**

- Pray for the Lord's strength and guidance as I engage in ministry.
- Please join me in praying for my children and grandchildren as my son Benjamin is still looking for a permanent job and my daughter Cecilia is doing her A-level exams. Pray, also that my grandchildren will grow in good health.
- Please pray for safety and good health as I serve God and His people.
- Please pray for the people of Tanzania as we go through some economic uncertainty with prices rapidly rising beyond expectations.



Finally, brethren I will never tire of thanking you for your support, encouragement, and financial gifts. I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to you. I would also like to thank Brother Dwayne Huff, Operations Director at GMI for traveling all the way from the States to come and visit us here in Tanzania.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. May the good Lord continue to bless you and meet all of your needs for the sake of His name and the ministry to which He has called us all.

May the Lord bless you and your family as you celebrate the birth of our Savior!



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