

SIMTOWE MINISTRY UPDATE

November 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. First, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to many families out there, our dear friends in Christ, and the GMI family at large for praying for our family and me during the trying moment of losing our beloved friend, father, brother, and husband, Kennedy. May the almighty God truly bless you all for your wonderful encouragement and support.



SICKNESS AND DEATH OF KENNEDY

As most of you are aware, Kennedy was diagnosed with diabetes in 2005 but it didn't stop him from serving the Lord. He was doing well until the end of 2020 when I saw him getting weaker day by day. He visited the hospital in February 2021 and then stayed home for three months to gain his strength. In July Kennedy felt well enough to visit the churches in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, for three weeks, but it was there he fell ill and died.

It has not been easy, however, I really appreciate your prayers and support during these trying moments. Kennedy was a very humble, loving, and kind man to us all. Even on his last trip to his hometown in Sumbawanga, he preached and encouraged the leaders to work in unity. Kennedy's last words were that he was going to the place where the Lord had prepared for him.

FAMILY

Tears come and go but memories of my dear beloved husband forever remain cherished. Losing Kennedy has really been hard to come to terms with. I look at my kids and wonder how I will manage to do things on my own, especially knowing that I am alone in the house. Despite all these worries, I know I am now all they have, and thus must be strong for them.

We have four beautiful children who have always endured with our movements to various countries. It is such a blessing that our first-born Stella resides in Zambia working for the government. Frank is in Tanzania and has a beautiful baby boy with his wife in Iringa. Benjamin is still in college and Cecilia is now in the 10th grade. They have all been so emotionally affected by Kennedy's passing. Please pray for them to come to terms with what has occurred and leave everything to God.

As a family, we have managed to set everything in place and I am now the overseer for all family affairs. This will not be an easy task because Kennedy did most of the things. However, with God's strength, I believe all will be well.



from left: Frank, Benjamin, Levy(Kennedy's brother), Sophia, Bibi (Kennedy's mother), Derick (Frank's son), Stella

MINISTRY

Our last work station was Tete, Mozambique. However, due to the pandemic of Covid-19, we travelled back to Tanzania. The aim was to wait until the Covid-19 cases went down because most borders were closed for passage. The ministry in Tete was very promising and people were ready to receive the gospel.

Therefore, my plan for the ministry is to continue with the women's ministry that I have mostly been involved in. Teaching women around different churches about the word of God has always been my passion. It is through women that the Word of God is spread in households and their communities around them. I believe women's ministry will keep me busy and focused on moving ahead in life.

The name of this ministry is Wanawake wa Neema which means "Women of Grace." Wanawake wa Neema will be a ministry meant to address the spiritual, emotional, physical, and social needs of women in the church. It will encourage women to improve their potential for participation in various church activities. It shall be a support system for heartbroken women, whether suffering from divorce, abuse, or simply loneliness. It will be a ministry that addresses topics and issues affecting women.

Currently, the Tanzanian church has many women who are involved in church activities but lack consistency. When they start a program, they lose track of what to do and when. It is unlike Zambia and Malawi where women have a constitution and follow all laid down procedures. Tanzania needs women's leadership in their areas. These women have an intimate relationship with God, and previously, I have worked with them on various occasions, so getting to work with them again will be a joy.

GOALS FOR MY MINISTRY INCLUDE:

1. Teaching women on how to become godly women.
2. Leading discussions on health issues.
3. Having Bible studies where we would meet and discuss different topics in the Bible, such as woman of good news, the Christian women and her duties in her family, church and community, and marriage.
4. Attending seminars held in various churches where all the women come together.
5. Coming up with projects that will benefit the women such as crafts and tailoring.
6. Having outreach activities with the women like visiting widows, orphans, elderly people, refugees, women in prisons, local hospitals and visiting people that are homebound due to illness.

There are so many ideas related to working with women, and with your support, I believe this ministry will be a success.

THANKSGIVING

The Simtowe family would like to thank everyone who has supported us from the very beginning and who currently support us. Working in various communities with different languages could not be achieved without your financial support and prayers. You supported us despite many challenges and helped us continue to do God's work.

Despite all that has happened, we remain servants of the most high and that is to carry on the work of spreading the Gospel. It is for this reason that I wish to continue with the work that Kennedy and I started many decades ago. Therefore, I humbly ask that you do not lose hope now that Kennedy is no more, but continue with the same spirit of supporting us. May the good Lord continue to bless you all my friends, continue to pray for the family and the work ahead.

God Bless,
Sophia Simtowe
