



# The CHALLENGE of Africa

AUGUST 2019 | VOL 1 NO 8

## God' Solution to Save the World

*"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*  
(Matt. 28:18-20)

## WANT TO SCHEDULE A CHIMALA MISSION PRESENTATION?

When I am home, I try to schedule appointments to give presentation reports to supporting churches or churches that may be interested in learning more about the work.

If you would like for me to visit, please contact me by email, phone or text!

[howellferguson@gmail.com](mailto:howellferguson@gmail.com)

Also you may call or text me at (731) 267-4935.

A WORK OVERSEEN BY



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## Reporting: No Lions

Sitting now at the desk at home writing this article stirs up a kaleidoscope of thoughts and images from our 7 weeks at Chimala. The surreal feeling of being at the mission and then finding yourself 2 days later back home is beyond words, even though I've experienced it many times before. Not only do I have my pictures, others have "shared" their photos with me as well. In what are now memories, there were times of happiness and great joy as well as sad losses of life. While always risking leaving something out, here's looking at things from my angle.

The conclusion of the seminars and Gospel Chariot campaigns are 29 baptisms and 6 restorations (7 more baptisms, 5 restorations in follow-up). We rejoice at the thought that there are now more souls able to anticipate their heavenly home because of Jesus Christ who is our Hope. These new Christians have only begun their spiritual journey. The concern of our evangelists is that these new Christians not only begin their journey to heaven but that they mature and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

When Mary and I arrived at Chimala toward the end of June, the Harding nursing students had already left; but the Oklahoma nursing students were about to arrive. Bill Stinson and I overlapped a few days so he could fill me in on some matters. During the last two weeks of our trip, our son Nathan and daughter-in-law Kristi came to visit Chimala. Nathan spent a lot of time at the secondary schools, spoke at several morning chapels, and preached on the Gospel Chariot. In fact because of his past work at

ADM, Nathan was asked to talk to the estate workers about work-place safety. He was with them for an hour-and-a-half discussing the subject and answering the men's questions.

As a licensed teacher, Kristi also taught in the primary school and spent several mornings helping the children in English words. But it did not take her long to make a connection with the OCU nursing students and follow them to the hospital. She, like everyone else who visits the hospital, was overwhelmed with the number of expecting mothers and the babies that are born every day. Most of these infants weigh far less than average American infants.

As you have heard me and previous coordinators say, there are many things happening at the mission all at the same time. Our preaching students are studying the word of God daily in classes with our dedicated instructors. The hospital continues to treat a wide variety of illnesses, diseases, and injuries as well as deliver babies. The primary and secondary schools educate children approx. ages 5—17 from a Christian perspective. The farm program is growing agriculturally and in livestock. Our estate workers are keeping the physical part of the mission up and running.

All of the opportunities the Chimala Mission provides are made possible due to your love for this incredible work. And as a side note: we are always happy to report that nobody got snatched by a lion! :-)

Howell Ferguson

# Polishing the Pulpit 2019 with the Chimala Display

By Howell Ferguson

For a number of years Alan Webster would send to me a “handwritten” invitation to attend that year’s Polishing the Pulpit (PTP) seminar. I always appreciated the invitation but for one reason or another I was unable to attend. As the years passed by I began to hear how large the program had grown and how people were thoroughly enjoying it. In fact, some people would plan their vacation week around PTP.

Last summer before I became stateside coordinator for Chimala Mission, I made my first visit to the PTP weekend session. Bill Stinson had been attending for a few years and had the Chimala Mission booth set up in the large display room. This year I was able to retain that same good location for our display. With a record attendance of over 5,200 people, the display had a great amount of potential exposure. I obviously could not count the total number of people who stopped by the display, but many people signed up for the *Challenge of Africa* newsletter.

It was a great opportunity to talk to people about the work at Chimala. It is my prayer that others will come to learn of the great amount of good that is done there. And with budget time for churches drawing near, we are also very hopeful that elderships will prayerfully consider putting the Chimala Mission in their budget.



Mary at PTP with Wissam Youssif, former Muslim-now-Christian from Iraq

Learn more online @ [www.chimalamission.com](http://www.chimalamission.com)

Howell Ferguson

## Random Snapshots of this Summer



New Bibles being loaded onto the Gospel Chariot



Ezekiel vaccinating newborn piglets



A new sister in Christ



Kristi teaching elementary school kids



Remmy Mfaume awards this man a Bible course certificate



Dr. Esau conversing with Dr. Kevin Huddleston



Harding nursing students with a newborn baby



Saturday at Utengule Coffee Plantation with the Rogers and the OCU nursing students

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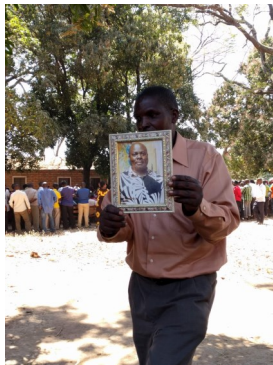
## Obituary: Joshua Mwakyasima

With the good also comes the bad. Nobody enjoys reporting bad or sad news. However we live in a world of real events involving real people. One of those real people that we recently lost to a tragic motorcycle accident was our beloved **Joshua Mwakyasima**. Joshua would have been 59 years old in November and lived on the Chimala Mission with his wife and family. He was trained in the Bible and in preaching at the Zambia School of Preaching and received his masters in Bible at Chimala through the Bear Valley Bible Institute extension program.



Joshua was one of the first instructors at the newly established Chimala Bible College in 2005. He was a thorough and capable student and teacher of the Bible. His work continued in preacher training until he was later invited to become a chaplain at the Chimala Mission Hospital. His warm personality and calming voice was a great source of comfort to sick and bereaved families. He cared also for the spiritual needs of the patients having converted hundreds of people as well as establishing churches in far away places where some patients lived. Joshua loved the Lord's church and zealously defended her always giving it first place in his life. We will surely miss this true soldier of the Cross. Our loss is heaven's gain!

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## Farm Program Update

While Mary and I were at the annual *Polishing the Pulpit* (PTP) event in Sevierville, TN, we caught up with Gage and Kelly Coldwater and their children, Aurora and Pike. Gage had just recently given a presentation at Dalraida in Montgomery, Alabama, and Mary and I had just returned from our visit at Chimala. They have been on the road traveling thousands of miles visiting churches. Their original plans were to return to Chimala sometime in September for a couple of weeks to assess the farm's progress. However due to various matters that trip has been canceled. Consequently they will make January the time of their next tour at Chimala bringing their family as they did earlier this year.

During their visit earlier in the spring, the anticipated container with many vital tools, seed and equipment was greatly delayed costing both time and money. Now with the equipment finally at the mission, the tools and materials are there to begin the preliminary work of preparing the ground for the planting season in December. This is the time for the vital rains that can make the difference between success or failure. But we have to make an investment into the future.

Financially the mission has been hit hard this year. The container costs, the cost of the new mill and electrical hook-up, and a survey of the Ailsa farm that saved us from losing the farm forever! All of these costs have to be paid for. And now we are looking at investment into seed, plowing, cultivation and hired workers for planting in Nov-Dec. Even though we have 450 acres at Ailsa, we are only able to plant 20 acres of maize and 20 acres of beans due to lack of funds. The farm manager estimates we will need approx. 14,340,000 T-shillings which is around \$6,200. **Brethren, we absolutely cannot miss this next planting season if we are serious about moving the Chimala Mission toward self-sufficiency. CAN YOU HELP US WITH THIS COST?**

## This Month's Chimala Mission Question

**Q: How can American mission efforts finally become self-sufficient?**

A: The continuing quest of the Chimala Mission is to transition the work closer towards self-sufficiency. This is the biblical model and has been the focus and desired goal of all previous administrations. In describing this process, consider the illustration of how to turn a large freight train. As everyone knows, freight trains can't turn on a dime! To turn they require a continuous and long pathway of tracks that eventually will point the locomotive in the desired direction.

This principle is nothing new. Consider the second part of Newton's First Law of Motion: *An object in motion continues in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an external force.* Like a massive locomotive, the Chimala Mission like any other mission work can become comfortable moving along the same old pathway of American support. It's "mass" wants to continue at

the same speed and direction. To an indigenous people stuck in the rut of routine, it is simpler and easier just to keep receiving American support to pay bills and salaries. But from the standpoint of long-term spiritual and economic maturity, such a mission train will never arrive in to the station of self-sufficiency, self-propagation, and self-leadership. That means a different mindset must be applied to steer any mission in the desired spiritual and economic direction.

True to human nature, there will be resistance to any change. But change is necessary to accomplish the original goal set out by the early missionaries and overseeing churches. Much progress has been made thanks to the wisdom of those who have gone before us. For now we continue to need funds, but our eye must be focused for future change. *"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong"* (1 Cor. 16:13). This is God's model for all Christians.



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Ezekiel Mwambogolo and Nathan Ferguson donating life-giving blood to help a very sick mother after giving birth to her tenth child at the Chimala Mission Hospital



Harding nursing students and Ronda Reely with Peter Kamatula at Chimala