



The CHALLENGE of Africa

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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

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



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New Missionaries Coming to Chimala Mission

It always occurred to Mary and me while living in a foreign mission field that one or more of our children might one day decide to follow a similar course. Since then all three of them have already made numerous trips. The truth is, whatever direction they choose in serving the Lord will be good with us.

After spending two weeks with us this past summer at Chimala, our younger son Nathan and his wife, Kristi have made the decision that they wish to return to Chimala to work as full-time resident missionaries in 2021. Naturally we are elated at the prospects of having Nathan and Kristi partner with us in this great work. With Richard and Carol Rogers returning home this year, there is a need for new missionaries to replace them.

Nathan's primary role will be to promote a strong evangelistic emphasis in the primary and secondary schools. His background as a youth minister will be invaluable working with nearly 700 kids and young people. His secondary duty will be twofold: He will serve as the "Information Technology" (IT) expert for all areas of the Chimala Mission. Strangely, the department heads seemed to think I was the IT guy when I visited the mission; which I am not. However, Nathan's computer troubleshooting and setup skills are amazing. And Nathan will also act in an administrative role with the new farm program. His former employment within

ADM's milling division will be beneficial in the mission's agricultural department.

Kristi was educated as an elementary school teacher and is currently licensed although not now practicing. However she plans to take an advanced one-year nursing program to become an LPN in order to work at the mission hospital.

For the next year they will be visiting churches not only raising support; but Nathan will be assisting me in my coordinator role trying to help me visit as many of Chimala Mission supporting churches as possible. His help in computing technology will be immensely helpful.

Nathan writes: "*Kristi and I have always desired to do full time mission work. We recognized we both had a passion to be on the field in service to others and bringing people to Christ. We never*

knew exactly when that would be or what it would look like, but after our recent trip to Chimala and with much prayer and consideration we are confident God has revealed a huge opportunity for us. We believe our talents and experience will be of great use to the mission and are excited to begin using them in Chimala for God's glory."

Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy are currently in need of monthly support. If you would like to share in their service in East Africa, please call 731-267-4935 or email at nathan.kferguson@gmail.com.

Howell Ferguson—Stateside Coordinator



Thanks to Missionaries Who Have Returned Home

By Howell Ferguson

Every few years there are transitions within the Chimala Mission. People come and go to-and-from the mission that is more than 50 years old. As long as the Lord delays His return, there will probably be many more. Many of these transitions you as readers may never hear about because they have lived their whole lives in a land foreign to your own. Others you know because of personal acquaintances.



This year we say so-long to our friends and brethren Richard and Carol Rogers who have served the Chimala Mission faithfully for the past three years. Besides doing all the things that mission work requires, Richard also served as a teacher in the Chimala Bible Institute. Beside him, Carol not only did the things all missionaries do but also helped organize the library, and taught sewing and art.

We also want to express our appreciation for the six years served by Cheryl Bode who worked with the Chimala Mission Hospital. Among the many works she performed at the hospital, she also helped greatly in the organization of the hospital records; but she also started the mobile clinic efforts that are designed to help people who live in difficult places far from the convenience of a hospital.



Only in heaven will we know all of the people who have helped the Chimala Mission effort. Souls have been saved, minds have been taught, and bodies have been healed due to the courage of those willing to go and work in places most of us will never see.

Richard Rogers Farewell Words to Chimala

You are never too old to do mission work! A little over three years ago Carol and I stepped off the plane in Tanzania at the age of 67 to work with the Chimala Mission and area churches. This was truly a journey of faith as we had never been to Tanzania before we arrived here to live. Our original plans were to be at Chimala for one year working to fulfill an internship for a Master in Ministry degree, but little did we know at the time that God had other plans for us.



Even though our original plans fell apart rather rapidly, we have completely enjoyed the last three years as we worked with both the mission and the area brethren. We would not trade our experiences and the relationships we have built here in southwestern Tanzania for any amount of money.

While this was our first time to be fulltime missionaries, we have previously been involved in over 20 short term mission trips. But I can tell you quickly that there is a vast difference between the two. What you do and learn on a short two week, or a month trip, is not the same as what you learn living among the people for a long time. As I look back over the last three years, there are so many things I have learned, that there is not room in this article to share them all. What I would like to do is highlight some of the key things our work has taught us, which would be helpful to others considering mission work.

First, adapting to the culture is critical. Many missionaries, especially short-term missionaries, fail in this point. Remember that you are a guest in a different culture, where they do things very differently. You are not in America so do not be appalled with the living conditions, when flies land on the food you are eating, when you use your hands instead of silverware to eat with, or when you are sitting in a church building with no air conditioning or screens on the windows and you are sitting on a 2x6

for up to two hours. Simply, if you are not willing to be inconvenienced, and willing to adapt (including what you wear), then do not consider going to another culture. While your motives may be sincere, you can do more harm than good.

Second, treat the local brethren as your equals. We know that Paul said we are all one in Christ, but sometimes we do not show it in our actions. In Africa especially,

they have a long history of colonialism and being in subjection to the white man. While colonialism is gone, the damage is still evident in that they will wait for a white man's approval before they do something. Thus we need to let the brethren know that we trust them and that we believe they are fully capable of making their own decisions. Philippians 4:13 needs to be our motto – "We (African or American) can do all things through Christ who strengthens us."

Third, challenge the brethren to do great things and launch out in faith. We have all heard the phrase, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Sadly, many of our mission practices (even here in Tanzania) has been to just give them fish. But the time has come for us to change and to challenge them to go out in the boat and fish for themselves. For the past couple of years I have been practicing what we call in America "Matching funds." It all began when one congregation whose building had been provided for them by American funds approached me wanting money to buy concrete so that they could finish their floor. (There is a longer story here, but that will be for another time). Anyway, I told them I would not give them any money, but rather for every bag of concrete they provide I will match it. I had forgotten the challenge until a year later when they approached me [continued on back page]

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Carol Rogers

A Farewell and Lessons Learned Working at Chimala

I have known about Chimala Mission since I was a teenager and wanted to come to, but the opportunity did not come until 2014. In that year we prayed and Richard accepted the challenge to start a Masters in Missions degree from Bear Valley Bible Institute which included an internship at one of their satellite schools. God opened the door for us to come to Chimala Mission and as things turned out, we have now completed three years.

When I stepped foot on Tanzanian soil, I had never been in the country before, so this was “sight unseen” and I knew I had a lot to learn. One of the first things I learned was that studying about a culture was not the same as living in it. I had to learn how to act and do (and I am still learning). I also learned that asking to teach would give you a whole class. When teaching a Bible class, at the end when you give a coloring picture the other children come out of the “woodwork”, so to speak. Having house help was highly recommended so I would be free to do things on the mission and also gave two Christian women jobs. Time is not “rigid” here so starting at a set time might happen, but the people wander in during the whole time of the event. You might start with 10 and end up with 50. The people here are eager and willing to learn but I have to be very patient and be willing to repeat as many times as necessary until they grasp the concept. Many of our ways are strange to them so even if they will help the people here they need time and instruction. I have learned to deal with the people and found wonderful brothers and sisters here. I also have many “wajukuu” (grandchildren) as many of the students call me “bibi” (Grandmother). How honored and proud I am of that.

I did not have to live in a mud hut but had a nice house with running water and electricity. The water was pretty consistent



but the electric was “iffy” at best. There would be times when it would be on for long periods but there were more times of the winks, blinks, and outages. The mission has a big generator that would give us power in the evenings. When I did not have electricity to cook, there was a two burner gas tabletop unit. It really was not too difficult to get by.

After my first week when I got caught up on my sleep, I started going “stir crazy” so I began looking for something to do. First, there was a room where the books and Bible class materials had been placed when they came in on the containers, that needed to be gone through and put out so they could be used and given away. Next, I started working in the library. I noticed that the books were unorganized and there was not adequate shelving with many books just stacked on the floor. We began by having shelves made and I found a database program so I could start entering the books. Richard helped me and we started getting the books organized. Around July of 2018, we realized we needed a trained librarian so Teddy was hired. She has a library degree and wanted to get the books on the Dewey system. We spent many hours entering the Dewey numbers, subjects and other information so the books could be easily found. Chimala now has a really nice library and a very competent librarian.

One other thing I had thought of was tutoring a few students in art, but when I was pointed to the headmaster of the secondary school, he gave me a class of students—22! When I came back the second year, I added 10 new students and had 14 second year students as 8 of them graduated. When I came back the third year, a third class of 10 new students was added [continued on back page]

This Month’s Chimala Mission Question

Q: How are decisions made at the Chimala Mission? Is it by majority vote? Consensus?

A. As with any organization, there has to be a chain-of-command. The organizational structure of the Chimala Mission is based upon the New Testament pattern as given by Jesus Christ. As a mission work of the Dalraida Church of Christ, the Chimala Mission is under the oversight of Dalraida’s overseers.

Under Dalraida’s elders is the mission committee with one member designated as the “Chimala” deacon. Under Dalraida is the stateside coordinator. The mission deacon and stateside coordinator work closely together. Following the stateside coordinator is the mission administrator. The stateside coordinator also works closely with the mission administrator who is over all the major departments of the

mission. Each of these departments has a director: Chimala School of Preaching, Chimala Mission Hospital, Chimala Mission Primary School, Herring Christian Secondary School, Chimala Farm Program and the Chimala Mission Estate.

While this serves as a smooth flow of command, most decisions are made locally on the mission. Each month a department heads meeting is conducted where each director reports to the administrator and one another. These meetings not only inform, they also communicate needs, announce events, plan, problem solve and brainstorm. Most decisions are formulated by the directors and approved by the administrator and coordinator. Only the most serious decisions are brought before the overseeing eldership. Delegated decision making is always desired and encouraged.



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[Richard Rogers]

and said they had their half of the concrete and were ready to complete the project. The brethren were excited about what they can do. This was so successful that I have repeated it several times (You can read about some of these on our blog site). When the brethren see what they can do on their own, they begin to take ownership and soon they will be feeding themselves, and become self-supporting.

It will be with tears in our eyes that we leave Chimala on November 11. While we are leaving the door open for shorter trips back, we feel it is time for them to start walking on their own. Will they fall at times? Yes. Will they still need some financial help? Yes. But our goal needs to be to help and encourage them on to maturity and not to carry them forever.

Grateful to be His servant,

Richard Rogers

[Carol Rogers]

and we had to be creative to find a time where I could teach the three different levels of art—a total of 27 students. They have studied drawing, color theory, colored pencils, pastels, watercolor, and oil painting according to their level. They have painted on the walls of classrooms and in their dining hall. The materials for these classes and painting was donated by friends and Christian brothers and sisters and brought over in suitcases or sent on the shipping containers.

In the villages I have also taught ladies' and children's Bible classes. I have trained one of the ladies who was helping me and learning from my example. I gave her my materials as she plans to continue teaching and also teaching other women how to teach.

The people here have become very dear to our hearts and it saddens us to leave, but we are also pleased and proud of their progress. God has blessed us very richly in these three years.