



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!

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

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Always The Need For Balance

I am going out on a limb a little bit to say something about COVID-19 otherwise known as the coronavirus that has captured the world's attention. Before I do, however, I want to make it clear that I am not diminishing the suffering or sadness of those who have been affected by this virus. Sickness and death are not things anyone should treat insensitively regardless of how or when they occur. Certainly we all sympathize with those around the world who already have been affected by this illness.

But to keep things in perspective, here are some interesting facts: Every year in the U.S. there are about 6 million car accidents and over 37,000 related deaths. Of those deaths over 10,000 were alcohol related. Furthermore, 1.6 million of car accidents were due to cell phone use while driving.

So here's my take. This coronavirus is serious—deadly serious. But where is the panic and mayhem due to the above statistics? There really is none. And furthermore, we continue to build, sell and drive cars. Our nation continues to produce, sell, tax and guzzle alcohol. And nearly every person in the U.S. owns and uses a cell phone. Do you see where an ounce of balance and common sense might go a long way to ease the tensions?

I may very well eat my words, but my guess is this virus—like all viruses—will eventually run its course and plateau in a relatively short time. And all of this apocalyptic panic to buy out all of the stores' toilet paper and canned foods will soon seem rather foolish. That is my prediction; and honestly, I hope I am right. Otherwise, if all of the negative and fearful reports of the pandemic is true, all of the impulse buying of supplies will fall short of real needs.

If you listen very much to the sensationalism from news sources you would think the world has never experienced anything like this. But it has, and it has many times. While we Americans

feel like we are facing uncertain times; there are many uncertainties people around the world face every day. It is part of their daily life.

Nearly everyone who has ever visited Chimala can relate to what I am about to say. I don't ever remember visiting Chimala that someone did not ask me for help. The kinds of things they ask for may seem strange to us: a deserted wife has no food or money to feed herself and her daughter; a man's wife needs a certain treatment or medicine but he doesn't have enough shillings to buy it; a poor farmer has nothing to buy seeds with to plant his crop; a mother asks for a pair of shoes for her child; the requests are endless.

While we genuinely have a crisis on our hands, and we ask for God's providential help; let us not forget the crises people at Chimala face almost daily. Your donations are extremely helpful to the people that are touched regularly because of the existence of the Chimala Mission. In my conversations with Chimala Mission administrator Menard Swila, the coronavirus had entered Kenya and the cases in Tanzania are continuing to increase. As of this writing there are 12 cases now reported in Tanzania.

I do not carry the weight of mayors, governors, nor the US President; but let me offer you assurance that this trial will pass. Hopefully we will have learned some valuable lessons. And if we have learned nothing else, we are learning how easily the strings of our world can become unraveled. Things we take for granted—like toilet paper and disinfectants—can be gobbled-up in a matter of days. We are all very weak and vulnerable; *"For He knows our frame; He remembers we are dust"* (Psa. 103:14). For that reason let us lean upon God, and not upon this world. Let us not cease doing good for others simply because God sometimes lets us see the reality of how weak we truly are. Let us be found doing!
Howell

Chimala Still Needs You

I wrote the following article a few years ago that I believe is just as relevant today as it was then. Since the early 1960's, the Chimala Mission has served southern Tanzania both spiritually and physically. Hundreds of people have served the mission over the years. However, at present there are no missionary families living on the mission. While we feel like the mission is in good hands with our local directors; the work of missionaries to train and encourage the Tanzanian Christians is far from over. The Chimala Mission still needs help.

Therefore let me make this challenge to you whether you're a preacher, teacher, doctor, nurse, dentist, plumber, carpenter, electrician, computer technician, artist, farmer, accountant, mechanic, skilled or unskilled laborer, etc....

- If you love the Lord, His word, and His church
- If you love people
- If you love beautiful sunrises and breath-taking sunsets
- If you love nature in its unspoiled beauty
- If you love finding yourself as a tiny speck in an endless African savanna
- If you love daily adventure and challenges
- If you love wearing many "hats"
- If you love watching simple gospel obedience
- If you love ingenuity and creativity
- If you love practical problem-solving
- If you love making a difference in the lives of people everyday
- If you love human nature in its most simplistic form
- If you love never being bored
- If you love helping people who in this life will never be able to repay you
- If you love the rewards of sacrifice and hard work
- If you love the look of innocence in children's eyes

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Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Howell Ferguson

Trying to Ease the Sorrows

Anyone who has ever worked at a hospital of any size knows the frequency of both happy and sad news. The release of a cured patient, someone with a mended broken bone, or the birth of a baby are sources of good news. Yet there is also sad news of a terminal illness, permanent loss of bodily movement or senses, or the loss of a child that otherwise would have brought joy into a family's home and heart. While there are literally thousands of babies born each year at the Chimala Mission Hospital, there are also many mothers who lose their children.

One of the many good works that take place at the hospital is the giving of small gifts for the mothers of newborns. These consist of things such as receiving/baby blankets, crocheted baby caps, and diaper shirts, etc. These come from wonderful Christian ladies in the U.S. who spend literally hundreds of hours hand making these wonderful gifts of Christian kindness. Sadly, however, a mother in grief and shock who may have lost her child would receive nothing—not because of any ill will; but simply because nothing had yet been put in place to address this void. This area of potential good works has now been addressed, and much goodwill is being created as a result.

Shadrack Obely, health secretary writes, "This morning we lost also one baby nine months from Igurusi near Chimala having malnutrition [and] admitted one week ago. She died today.

Chimala. We have some tribes especially animal keepers, they don't care much [about] children, lack of education etc... We have special clinic for malnutrition."

Dr. Esau writes, "Brother Mlinge has been preaching to patients and relatives at the hospital corner. Mamas from the children's ward who lost a child are being comforted by doctors and nurses. This mom came with two children, one died yesterday morning, so we were giving her some gifts which were left by Mrs. Ferguson."



These gifts, generously donated from a ladies Bible class in the U.S., consist of such things as small bottles of shampoo, soap, lotion, and nice jewelry. They will never take the place of the child they lost, but they are a demonstration of love and sympathy from Christians. We encourage our Christian women to continue in these great works of grace in honor and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Here our Ward nurse Ella Kahilwa consoling and comforting the mom after giving her some gifts left by Mary Ferguson. We have several cases of malnutrition around



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Howell Ferguson

CSOP February Report

Evangelistic Report

Frank Mwishikumbulu sends his greetings and reports on the following evangelistic activities of CSOP instructors and students. There were six groups sent out on weekends that worked with six churches.

The first group worked for the second time with the Ubaruku Church of Christ. Boaz Kasiba led this group with three students visiting house to house giving people Bible lessons and tracts, visiting and encouraging Christians who are weak in the faith. The results of their efforts were **two restorations, 16 peo-**



ple enrolled in Bible lessons, and **146 tracts** given out.

The second group was led by Frank Mwashikumbulu with four students for the second time with the Isisi Church of Christ. The works they performed were going house to house, visiting and encouraging new Christians, and providing Bible lessons and tracts. Their work resulted in **one restoration, 26 people** enrolled in Bible correspondence lessons, **160 people** received Bible tracts, and three people very close to being converted.

The third group was at the Igawa Church of Christ for the second time with Remy Joseph and four students. The work which they performed included visiting from house to house, supplying Bible lessons and tracts, and visiting some of the Christians who were weak in the faith and delinquent in Sunday worship. The results from their work included **three restorations, 18 people** enrolled in Bible lessons, and **190 received tracts**.

The fourth group conducted their efforts at the Mabadaga Mtoni Church of Christ for the second time. Bernard Kulanga with four students worked in house to house teaching, visiting some Christians who were weak in the faith, and supplying Bible lessons and tracts. Furthermore this group exhorted the brethren to view this as their work and the need for them to follow-up on the efforts for those who received Bible lessons. Their results



included **one baptism, three restorations, and 13 people** who received Bible correspondence lessons.

The fifth group was at Mabadaga Tamuka Reli Church of Christ for the second time with Alphonse Mwampogolo. He with three students taught house to house, supplying Bible lessons and tracts, and encouraged Christians who are weak in the faith and Sunday worship. Results for the work were **two restorations, two baptisms, 13 people** started to the Bible lessons, **112 people** received tracts, and one person planned to be baptized soon.

The sixth group was at Chimala (A) Church of Christ for the second time with teacher Lai Mkwama and three students. Work which they did was preaching house to house, supplying Bible lessons and tracts, visiting and encouraging weak Christians. Results for the work were **one baptism, two restorations, and 16 people** started studying Bible lessons.

It is quite amazing that in just two weekends of evangelism, the CSOP instructors and students were able to hand out 608 tracts, set up 102 Bible correspondence courses, and brought about 13 restorations, and 5 baptisms (with 4 close to conversion). The principle of 2 Timothy 2:2 is alive and well at Chimala Mission—**training faithful men to teach others!**





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- If you love the thrill of seeing the largest and most powerful animals on the face of the earth outside the bars of a cage
- If you've ever dreamed of Africa...
- Then you'd love working as a missionary at Chimala!

If you have the heart of a missionary but just haven't quite yet found your "niche" in life, you owe it to yourself and your family to investigate the Chimala Mission. Nathan and Kristi Ferguson and their children are looking for a family to share their next few years as missionaries together at Chimala Mission. We need helpers who are committed, conscientious, and self-starting Christians who work well with others, are approachable, patient, biblically sound, flexible, compassionate, willing to wear many hats, and willing to be examples as servant leaders. To borrow a phrase, it is the hardest job you will ever love!

Howell

