

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**.



3740 Atlanta Highway Montgomery, AL 36109 (334) 272-2561 www.dalraida.org



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Precaution and Progress Amidst a Pandemic

If ever there was a time for calm and reasonable minds, this is the time. In my opinion, I think we need to stop this "the world's never going to be the same again" nonsense. True, when the Lord returns again to take His people home, this world will definitely change—it will be destroyed (1 Peter 3:9-13), and we will be in heaven forever! But short of that great and final event, this world will continue on as God has promised (Genesis 8:22). Pandemonium and mayhem may be Satan's dual scare-tactic-tool, but God's providential care is designed to protect us against needless uncertainty and faithlessness (Matt. 6:25-34).

And while I believe it is the responsible thing for me to do as stateside coordinator to encourage the Chimala Mission leadership to take all proper precautions in the interest of their health against this virus; I do not expect the Tanzanians (or anyone else) to stop living their lives as God has placed us on this earth to live. There comes a point where we have to not only protect ourselves against the virus but also against losing our common sense and freedom.

For example, we live in a country that has a speed law of 70 mph on many interstate highways. At that speed there is a certain percentage of people who inevitably will die in car crashes. No one can deny that. Yet, these deaths could be easily prevented by reducing the speed laws to 5 mph; but who do you know that wants to do that? You see, we are willing to accept a certain amount of risk in order to travel quickly and efficiently while knowing all along that sadly some people are going to die. Why do we do this? For the same reason we should not stop living our free and constitutionallyprotected lives even though we know some people will die from the coronavirus. Our initial reaction to such a thought is we feel like we should save everyone no matter the cost. But we never do. In society we always make tradeoffs.

Yes, we should do a lot to prevent coronavirus, but we shouldn't do everything; just as we should have speed limits, but we shouldn't have 5 mph speed limits. To say otherwise, we are either being disingenuous or we are saying it is impossible to live free and happy lives. There is always a price to pay; and history has proven that the vast majority of people are willing to take these risks. It's called living. Staying huddled-up in a house for fear that you might get sick is surrendering to fear and giving up life. We all can't become the boy in the plastic bubble.

Maybe the following story will help illustrate my point. There is a fable told about a sinister figure coming into a certain city, and someone said to this sinister figure: "Who are you?" The sinister figure replied, "I am Pestilence." And he said, "What are going to do?" Pestilence said, "I'm going into that city to kill 1,000 people." Later the man met Pestilence on his way out of the city, and he said to the sinister figure, "Pestilence, your arithmetic is not very good. You said you were going into the city to kill 1,000 people, but 10,000 people have died." "No, my arithmetic is just fine," Pestilence replied. "I killed 1,000, but fear killed another 9,000."

If there is a silver lining to the events of the past couple of months, it has been seen in families spending more time together getting to know each other better, the cards and phone calls of people checking up on each other, the longing we have to once again be able to assemble together and see each other's faces and warm smiles, and in realizing how much we sometimes take each other for granted. Personally, I am looking forward immensely to the time Mary and I can come visit you who love, pray for, and support the Chimala Mission. Lord willing, I hope to see you before long! Howell

From Nathan Ferguson

The current coronavirus pandemic has affected us all - young and old, sick and healthy, poor and rich. For most of us it has kept us indoors, where we've found ourselves grasping at any and every opportunity to socialize, share, or just experience the normal life we once had. It has certainly affected my family, and as we try to remain safe, calm and productive, there are plenty of challenges.

Have you found yourself having more time than usual? This is one of the big changes our family and millions of others have experienced over the past several weeks. While previously traveling pretty regularly visiting congregations and individuals, most of that has stopped. We can't visit, we can't travel, and we can't socialize the way we once could. Our fundraising slowed has been down tremendously. And while this "opened up time" first came as a breath of fresh air, it's easy to get stir crazy when we are stuck at home.

At this point in time, many of us are praying for things to get back to normal. For some of us we may have nowhere to go (because of a lockdown), or maybe feel we have no one to lean on (because we can't go visit). It is important for us to recognize that we *always* have somewhere we can go, and *always* have someone we can lean on. It may in fact be in the most *difficult* of times like these that we should cling closer to God. Jesus, during his most difficult and trying times, shows us what spending time alone with his Father looks like, and the strength that he *needed* and *received*. How much more so should we follow his example in circumstances like today?

It is likely you have already changed some aspects of your day-to-day life. Maybe you have improved your Bible study habits or maybe you've been praying to God more than ever before. Maybe you're trying out new recipes or new board games with your family. While this is certainly not a pleasant time concerning the virus, I pray you don't lose your joy on what you *can* still experience. Center God in your life, and it will always amaze you where you can find meaning and happiness.



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Howell Ferguson

Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Equipping Our Youth For Service

Continuing the Lord's work of strengthening churches and evangelizing the lost under the current coronavirus pandemic has certainly been challenging. But with determination and faith in the Lord these complications simply provide opportunities for other ministries. In the following paragraphs, Remmy Mfalme reports about how he is using these days to train boys to become future leaders in the church.





"A week after closing CSOP, I had been busy with the program I introduced to the KIBAONI CHURCH OF CHRIST on a Sunday I worshiped with them... I planned a program

of teaching 8 Christian youth (boys) a subject on HOW TO LEAD CHURCH SER-VICES: Song, Prayers, Preaching, Lord's supper, Contribution and Announcements; and also how they should get prepared for services: Postures, Pronunciations, Eye contact, Voice quality, Gestures etc.... I decided to do so due to my testimony on the guys'

effort how they performed worship services on the day I attended with my whole family of 6 people. So I had a



schedule made, every day for two weeks from 8:00am to 4:00pm but we had to break for lunch at 12:00pm to 1:30pm. I provided my transport (fuel) but food was prepared by the church. It was good and successful while at the same time reminding them on how they can prevent themselves from CORONA infection.

I was moved to help them in order to prepare future effective church servants from local congregation (indigenous) rather than depending on distant preachers from other congregations for a long time...this is challeng-



ing to have and raise our kids in church to a point of enjoying fruits of their service."

Help Chimala Missions use our financial support more wisely!

Howell Ferguson

CMH Prepares For Coronavirus

As the coronavirus continues to spread around the world, the Chimala Mission Hospital is taking necessary precautions to protect both patients and staff. Supplies are limited, but the hospital is using what they have to limit cross-infection as much as possible. Masks have been given to all doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff. Some masks are even being made out of local fabrics. These pictures were sent by health secretary Shadrack Obely showing hospital staff suited-up with masks.

In the meantime, we continue to treat people such as the man to the right who was just released from the hospital after both of his legs were run over by a train. He and a fellow worker were working night shift repairing part of the railway damaged by floods. At midnight they slept on the railway, and a train came and crushed both of the men's legs. His co-worker died a few hours following an amputation, but this man was released a few days later.



Dr. Essau Mwaipape



Ahazi Kaduma, student



Anna Makeula, nurse



Dr. Peter Kigombora



Berekia Mwaulesi, lab technician





Recovering double amputee due to train accident



Elisha Matengele, nurse



Dr. Peter Mwalubinga



Abakuki Mhando, nurse; Selemani Adam, nurse; Dr. William Nsajingwa; Shardrack Kasiba, health secretery; Joyce Mwasenga, nurse

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DALRAIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST CHIMALA MISSION 3740 ATLANTA HIGHWAY MONTGOMERY, AL 36109 (334) 272-2561 chimalamision@gmail.com

Stateside Coordinator: HOWELL FERGUSON howellferguson@gmail.com (731) 267-4935 www.chimalamission.com

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"For you are but a youth"

An African boy fights a daily battle against the most deadly beast on the planet. Neither his mom or dad nor his house can adequately protect him from the constant danger of becoming its victim as it takes 1 million lives each year; 3,000 per day are children. In fact, every 30 seconds a child dies from this creature's bite. What is this most deadly animal? A lion? Snake? Crocodile? None of these. This creature is none other than the mosquito and its deadly malaria parasite.



But the Bible tells of a creature much more deadly than the mosquito. Not leviathan, not behemoth; but the devil who goes about as a "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). This boy fights not only the mosquito, but the eternally — deadly creature called Satan.

But there is a weapon more powerful than any vaccine, the sword of the Spirit, the

word of God. Teaching him the Bible will supply him from adolescence to adulthood to fight "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). Training boys in church, or later in the Chimala School of Preaching is their best chance of not only beating the devil at his own game, but also helping others to defeat sin and spiritual death. God says, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Even in Chimala's primary and secondary schools, our kids are taught divine principles for spiritual healing and heavenly success. Help us help them win this warfare!