



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 not overseas or on the road, I schedule appointments for presentation reports to supporting churches or churches interested in learning more about the **Chimala Mission**.

If you would like a report, 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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Reflection on the Past: The Sun Will Shine Again

A devastating grass fire wipes out hundreds of acres of farmland. It leaves a blank stare in the eyes of the Tanzanian farm manager who was responsible for overseeing thousands of otherwise healthy pine and eucalyptus seedlings. His future commission fortune has been transformed to black burnt soot. All he can do is stand there and look.

There are no words to describe the feeling of failure. As talented as you and I think we are, no one is immune to seeing our aspirations go up in smoke. Our plans, hopes and dreams are always vulnerable. This is because we live in a broken world described by Paul as "groaning" (Rom. 8:22).

Thankfully, however, God's power works for ultimate good through His children in a manner that is "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20; Rom. 8:28). One day there is failure and defeat; another day of God's choosing you're found pondering how God turned ashes into the brilliance of success and life. Surely we can see the importance of the Bible topic of patience.

I believe I can say there has not been a single missionary who has spent any length of time at Chimala that cannot relate to what I have just written. The first paragraph actually happened to one of the current leaders at the mission. Failure in Tanzania does not give you many options and leaves you with fewer resources. He and many like him know all too-well the importance of this lesson.

For us and all who face trials, James gives the following words:

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And

let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

There is a word we were taught very early in life—the word WAIT. It was not a word pleasant to hear then, and honestly it is not one we are too fond of even today! Yet we will never learn life's lesson of patience nor survive the Christian life without learning this word's meaning. "Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD" (Isaiah 27:14).

The Chimala Mission has outlived many of its former missionaries and local Christians. Most of the good works taking place today are a result of their labors, sacrifices and patience often under frustrating circumstances. They taught, toiled, and were tried waiting for good things to happen. Sometimes they did; sometimes they didn't. And I believe a large percentage of current Chimala supporters understands this principle.

Those of you who read the *Challenge of Africa* regularly know how important financial support is to Chimala Mission. Just as your family and occupation requires funds to operate; mission efforts cannot continue to operate without support. Chimala Mission is accustomed to making "cuts" where it can. It is not something I enjoy doing when a request comes in and I have to delete the request from a monthly draw. But like all decisions of a financial nature, lines have to be drawn. As this very unusual year comes near an end, please consider how God continues to apply His principles of grace-through-trials even when we fail. That's why when God's grace prevails, the Chimala Mission shines! -Howell

Howell Ferguson

Update on Nathan and Kristi Ferguson Family

Moving your family to live in another country is no small task. And moving from the US to a “third-world” country is even more challenging. At the writing of this short article, Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy are in Massachusetts spending a little time with Kristi’s family allowing her parents to celebrate the birthday of at least one of the grandchildren—Emmy on Oct 9th (she will be 3). Because they are so far away Kirsti does not get to see her family as much as she would like. Furthermore, they hope to meet with some churches in that area to raise awareness of the Chimala Mission to consider sponsoring them.

In the meantime, the process of getting their work permit followed by their residence permit has begun. Acquiring a residence permit has always been a requirement in living in Tanzania. However, it has only been in the past few years that Tanzania is now requiring a work permit. Space does not permit an explanation of why this seems so irrational. Suffice it here to say it is likely just another way for the government to generate more revenue. The trend these days in many countries is a less friendly relationship with religious missions. But if you are going to work in these countries, you have to follow their guidelines as much as is biblically possible (cf. Matt. 22:21; 1 Pet. 2:17).

We will likely order our flight tickets for a January departure to Tanzania in the next few weeks. Will COVID-19 and wearing of masks be factors? Only God knows. Probably much will depend upon who wins the presidential election. Please pray for God to give all of us a good outcome!

Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Erhard Msanda

Hongera Gideon Mwandete

[The following article is a report from Herring Christian Secondary School’s head master, Erhard Msanda. The young lady reported about in this article, Hongera (“congratulations” in Swahili) is further proof of the “fruit” produced from the program of supporting preachers’ children to attend school at the Chimala Mission. We are very thankful for the individual Christians who support this program and ensure that we help our preachers’ families who sacrifice much for the sake of the continued preaching of the gospel in their home villages. If you would like to help with this good program, please use the form on the back page under “**Preachers; Kids School Fees**” to indicate the amount you wish to contribute. Thank you! hf]

Hongera is a daughter of a long serving preacher of Chimala Mission congregation, Gideon Mwandete. She started her education journey in 2005 at Chimala Mission Primary School, graduated grade 7 in 2011 and in January 2012 joined Herring Christian Secondary School (HCSS). At the secondary level, she and other preachers' kids were fully supported by the preacher's kids fund raised. She graduated form four at HCSS in 2016 and was selected by government to join form 5 in one of its schools. She graduated form 6 in 2018 and then joined teachers training college where she graduated in May 2020 with the diploma in Teaching secondary school; physics and chemistry are her teaching subjects.

Soon after college graduation, Hongera requested to volunteer at her former school. Full of joy I allowed my former student to join our teaching faculty. So she has been teaching here since July 1 at a volunteering basis. I appreciate her so much for her sense of gratitude of helping. We didn't force her, and even when she was told we can't hire her she was ready to volunteer.

I am so thankful for the preacher's kids support because Hongera is one of the fruits; many fruits are coming in future.

Thanks and God bless.

Erhard



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Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

Frank Mwashikumbulu

Reports of Seminars and Week-end Evangelism

Hello brethren, greetings to you all. We are so thanks to God who helped us to do the seminar at Matebete Church of Christ. People from Mapangala and site one attended to the seminar at Matebete. We used powertiller machine as transport. Attendance to the Seminar were : Adults 33, children 38. Results to the seminar : No baptisms 21 people want more teaching and two people promised to be baptized. Teachers who taught to the seminar are: Frank Mwashikumbulu, Zebedayo - the preacher of Mapangala Church of Christ, and brother Patric Kinana.



C. S. O. P WEEKEND EVANGELISM REPORT BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Hello brethren we are greeting you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Here in Tanzania we are going good. These are report of evangelism which God helped us this weekend. We succeeded to visit two congregation (1) Igurusi Church of Christ and Njombe Ruduga Church of Christ. Teachers who oversaw this activity at Igurusi Church of Christ are : Boaz Kasiba and Alphonse Mwampogoro with 12 students. Work which they did there are: going house to house, supplying Bible lessons, tracts, and Sunday worship. Results of the work: Bible lessons supplied 125, tracts 1500, houses visited 32. Three restorations. One was a grandmother baptized in 1960 at Kitekelo. Now she is living at Igurusi. She is knowing Lenkos Mkwama very well because he is the one who baptized her. No baptisms. Attendance on Sunday were 43. Teacher who oversaw the activity at Njombe Ruduga is Remy Mfaume. He is still there continuing working with the church preaching public meetings and going house-to-house.





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(This form is provided for your convenience)

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CSOP WEEKEND EVANGELISM EFFORTS

We are so thankful to God who helped us to do his work to the four congregation as follows: Ukwavila Church of Christ. Teacher Remy Mfaume with four Students. Work which they did there are: preaching house to house, supplying Bible lessons, tracts, visiting to the house of Christians singing songs together and Sunday worship. Results of the work they had one baptism two restorations. Tracts supplied are 450, Bible lessons given to the people 80, attendance for Sunday 46. The second group went to Inyala Iya-wayaya. Teachers who oversaw this activity are Boaz Kasiba, with seven students. Work which they did there are preaching house to house, supplying Bible lessons, tracts and visiting the house of Christians, singing songs together and Sunday worship. Results of the work they succeeded to supply Bible lessons 45, tracts 600, no baptism, one restoration. The third group went to Nganga Church of Christ which there was gospel public meeting prepared by the churches. Teachers overseeing this activity were Bernard Kulanga, Frank Mwashikumbulu, Lai Mkwama with six students work which we did there are: preaching to the public meeting, going house to house, supplying Bible lessons, and tracts. Results of the work were one baptism, two restorations and we succeeded to supply Bible lessons 82, tracts given to the people was 1200.

