



# 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!

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*Howell Ferguson*

## Chimala Winter Visit Accomplished

I used to never buy one-way flight tickets as they are generally more expensive once you complete the round trip with the return ticket purchase. But these are uncertain times. On the last two winter trips to Chimala, we ended up changing the return date for different reasons. Adding to that, we already were forced to delay our departure date from January to February this time as Nathan's work permit was not yet ready. So it just made sense due to the trend of uncertainties to buy one-way flights.

Naturally that is not a trend I want to continue not only for financial reasons but also for trying to stay on a schedule. Being the keen observer of the many irregularities of Tanzania, however, many of you might think I would anticipate some of this. But traveling with the disruptions COVID-19 has brought on the world, particularly air travel; these are new waters to navigate.

For those of you who would like to visit Tanzania in the near future, I would be happy to describe the process we went through. Mary and I knew we would be the "Guinea Pigs" on getting into and out of the country especially as the US State Dept. has designated Tanzania as a "Level 4". But it is possible to make the trip successfully although it will cost you more due to the COVID tests. At this point, the airlines I am familiar with are not requiring COVID vaccinations; however, that could change any day under the current state of things.

Getting to the point of our recent visit to Chimala, it is important to point out that

Chimala Mission is somewhat like a small village. About 1,000 people can be found on the mission during an average week-day. Many of the doctors, nurses, and teachers of the hospital and schools live on the mission with their families in provided housing. I could try to paint a rosy picture and say everything is perfect and tranquil. First, that would be a lie; and second, no organization with that many people is going to be free of problems or problem-people.

However, the gospel is still being preached locally and in the week-end evangelism efforts of the CSOP. Having Nathan now living at the mission is also a huge benefit to helping



*Friendly visitors from the primary school*

address areas that confront us. He will be able to give fresh insights into some of the challenges that have tested the farm program

*Continued on the next page*

Peter Kamatula

## Mbeya Radio Program

[Peter Kamatula is one of our CSOP instructors who also is involved in a radio program as well as translating Bible study materials. Below is his brief report. hf]

Tomorrow I will be leaving Arusha for Mbeya. I finished teaching my short course, but we are still working on the book we are translating. Because of the Radio program and the Bible school in Mbeya, I need to go. But I will come to finish up the book.

Briefly, with the Radio program in Mbeya I am doing good. It has been one of the ways to get students for Mbeya Bible School. Also, through it I have so many people who have become good Bible students.

There are some places where the students want to be baptized, but the problem is how to take care of them, because they are away from where the congregations are. But there is a place so called Chalangwa, which is not very far from Mbeya, where I plan to start a congregation. If I will do that, there is a brother who does evangelism with me, he can help me going there on Sundays. Also, I can support one or two men of the congratulation to attend the Mbeya Bible School by giving them accommodation and food in order to make them preachers of the place.

The use of the money that I get for the Radio program is the same. Sh. 750,000 for fee and 100,000 for follow up. I will send you detailed information when I get back home.

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

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as well as provide a second set of eyes over the financial operations of the various departments. There are many projects waiting to begin, but the local management has to demonstrate leadership, accountability and the ability to make difficult decisions before we begin. This is not a popular concept, but we believe it is vital to future growth and development of the church in general and the Chimala Mission in particular.

Much of my time spent on this trip was to help the departments see where they are falling behind, and assist them in finding solutions to overcoming any shortcomings. We have been emphasizing the importance of "owning" this work; as it will never succeed without this vital attitude engraved in the Tanzanians' hearts. We do not know when, but the day will ultimately come when the Chimala Mission will be placed solely into the hands of the Tanzanians. This is the direction past overseeing churches have been moving for decades. But until that day comes, we will continue to need help from American churches and missionaries.



Newly-made Bible class visual aids



Nearby congregation at Kimani

Chimala Mission home, we are hopeful it will motivate other American families to also take the brave step to join them. Currently there exist three large and two medium missionary houses that are sitting empty waiting for missionaries to inhabit bringing their talents to Chimala. Nearly every kind of talent is needed; but if you have medical, administrative, or financial experience, that would be a huge plus. And any retired farming couple would be very welcomed.

The challenges of the hospital are not as unusual as we might imagine. We often take for granted the progress in medicine we have made in the western world. While third-world countries like Tanzania have benefited from these advances, there is still no comparison to our systems not only in medicine, but also in training, environment, techniques, government involvement/ interference, logistics and material supplies in order to implement quality health care services.

It is easy to see that the Lord's work at Chimala Mission is complex. But we serve a God Who makes the complex simple, Who makes the difficult easy, and Who makes the impossible possible. We serve a Great God!



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## Kristi's Korner

Have you ever moved to a new state or new city? Or maybe just a new church? Since our move here to Chimala, Tanzania I've been reminded again of the tremendous blessing of the Lord's church. In our 6.5 years of marriage we have moved 6 times! Every move comes with a period of adjusting and getting use to your new home. When you move to a new church you have a period of adjusting like this and getting to know your new church family. During that time you are probably looking for ways your talents and abilities can serve that church.



Here in Chimala it's not that different at all. We've been here 7 weeks now and we have been blessed with so many good people of the church to help us in our adjustment. During this time both Nathan and I are looking for ways we can serve the church and the people here with our individual talents and abilities.

We are beginning to get into a routine of life here. My week days are spent teaching preschool to the girls while Nathan is out helping in the various parts of the mission. The girls have found a group of kids they are enjoying playing with so we try to visit them in the afternoons. I have loved watching the girls make friends even with a major language barrier. Their play is usually chasing chickens, butterflies, or making pretend cakes with dirt. I'm starting to wonder why I spent so much time strategically planning and packing toys from the states when their favorite toys to play with here are dirt, sticks, rocks, and grass.

We are just getting our feet on the ground here, but are excited for opportunities to serve and help the Chimala Mission grow and succeed. No matter where you are in the world I pray that you are seeking ways and opportunities to use your talents and abilities to serve our amazing God and His church.

## Nathan's Notes



It is hard to believe that we have already been here for nearly two months. Time has really flown, and it seems we are already beginning to close out the rainy season. We have spent a lot of time learning the ins and outs of the mission as a whole. I have been in meeting after meeting with each of the different departments, discussing future plans, challenges, financial situations, spiritual guidance, and even legal issues. It is very important for us to learn and understand how everything works so that we can be as prepared and efficient as possible. It can be very easy to want to jump in and start barking orders and commands, but we know this is not the way to overcome challenges or plan

successfully as Christians. We are indeed facing some very big challenges. While I could go on in detail about each thing we are dealing with, the reality is that after the coronavirus pandemic, many things have been neglected during that time and we are just now able to start recovering in some of the areas that are in need of assistance. Even so, we believe the future of the mission is bright. Each of us here wants nothing more than to see each department succeed and do it's very best in continuing the important work here.





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**Until They All Hear**

Frank Mwashikumbulu, CSOP director, continues to send reports of their weekend evangelism efforts. I have condensed his report to give the following summary of the work they did in two week-ends at the following villages:

March 20-21

**Kapunga** (group 1) with one instructor and 4 students. Door-knocked. Met with 18 Christians. Resulted in 4 restorations

**Kibaoni** (group 2) with one instructor and 2 students. Door-knocked. Supplied 200 tracts. Conducted 21 Bible lessons. Studied with 8 non-believers. Resulted in one restoration

**Ukwavila** (group 3) with one instructor and 2 students. Supplied 800 tracts. Studied with 50 students. Visited primary and secondary schools supplying tracts and Bible lessons. Resulted in one restoration.

March 27-28

**Kapunga** (group 1) with one instructor and 4 students. Door-knocked. Supplied 400 Bible tracts. Conducted 23 Bible lessons with follow-up lessons. Met with 27 adults and 14 children in worship. Resulted in one restoration.

**Kibaoni** (group 2) with one instructor and 2 students. Follow-up studies from previous week. Supplied tracts and 15 new Bible studies. Resulted in one restoration.

**Lembuka** (group 3) with one instructor and 2 students. Visited the market. Supplied 1,800 tracts and set up 260 Bible lessons.

