



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

Summer Chimala Plans and Planes

It does not take long after arriving back from a visit to Chimala to realize how many things still need to be done back home. We hadn't even recovered from jet-lag when we headed down to Montgomery to begin working on this next shipping container to Chimala. Amazingly, and with the help of a few key people, we had most everything inventoried and loaded on pallets in less than 2 weeks. But that was just the beginning of the process. Finding a shipping company and providing the proper documents including packing list and inventory while also satisfying the needs of our Tanzanian clearing agent has not been easy. This will be my first container to process from beginning to end. Certainly I would appreciate your prayers trying to avoid mistakes that can quickly become costly!

But not everything since coming home has been demanding. Mary and I enjoyed an enriching four-day gospel meeting at North Jackson with Keith Parker. Notwithstanding the restrictions from COVID, the nightly attendance was very good and 16 precious souls responded to the Lord's invitation. I can't remember the last gospel meeting where there were that many responses. It made me think of how much more receptive the Tanzanians generally are to such meetings. May more American hearts become similarly softened in the near future especially in view of the fast downward path our country seems to be headed towards. Certainly our country needs a spiritual revival!

Revivals are actually needed everywhere. This summer at Chimala Mission CSOP will be

hosting two major events. The first event will be seminars for young people, women, and preachers. These seminars will take place from June 8—24. The second event will be four summer gospel campaigns. These meetings will take place mostly in the month of July. Our tentative plans are to return to Chimala in early June and stay until the end of July.

We know airlines are becoming more restrictive concerning COVID as they not only require COVID tests, but may soon require the vaccine. Putting aside politics and whatever conspiracy theories that may be going-around; there are factual health concerns in relation to the vaccines including deaths from around the world as well as questionable motivations from some pushing the vaccines. Whether this should be a real concern or not, it will affect our decision of what airlines we choose to fly. At this point Qatar and Turkish airlines seem to be the least restrictive as they do not connect through Europe as do Delta and United.

Trusting in the providence of God, however, we pray that all these restrictions will hopefully fade away leading back to "normal" life again. Then we will only have to think about travel dates, ticket prices, and malaria prevention like in the "old days". In the meantime, we all need to pray to God for continued opened doors through which the gospel of Christ can convince and convict the hearts of sinners to the urgent need for the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary and ultimately in vain if the former is neglected.

Howell Ferguson Container Update

It normally takes several days to gather enough information to complete a monthly newsletter. During those past few days, Mary and I were in Montgomery making final preparations for loading a 40-foot container.

But finally, the day has come and gone, and our container left the Chimala storage space on Friday May 7th by truck to be put on rail for Savannah, GA where it will await an ocean shipping vessel destined for Dar-es-Salaam. We were given 2 hours to load with a weight limit of 43,000 lbs. To our happy expectations, the truck which backed up to the dock at 10:00 am pulled away at exactly 12:00 noon. We finished at 27,940 lbs.

There was no waste of time as 8 men and 3 women worked furiously pushing pallets, unloading and stacking boxes, and recording pallets pulled and pieces loaded. No amount of preparation can really make the process a smooth one as it's much like putting together a gigantic 848-piece puzzle in 2 hours. We are very thankful for the great help freely given of all those from Dalraida who had a part. We finally did it!



Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Howell Ferguson

Shipping A Container Around the World

It might be a coincidence that we are finally able to send a 40-foot shipping container full of items for Chimala Mission just when the shipping container industry has been making the news. First there was the gigantic 1,312' Ever Given container ship that got stuck in the Suez Canal. And now we're hearing about containers falling off these types of vessels plunging billions of dollars worth of cargo to the bottom of the oceans. Finally, shipping lines are very much backlogged due to so many shipments since COVID let up.

Notwithstanding all of this, we have finally reached a point both physically and financially to be able to process a container with an



inventory of items collected over the past couple of years. All areas of the mission benefit from these shipments of donated items as well as homemade products from so many church volunteers.

The Dalraida Church of Christ which oversees the Chimala Mission not only helps pay for the warehouse rent where the commodities

Current Chimala Mission storage warehouse

are stored and processed in Montgomery, AL; but they also volunteer when called upon to help sort, load and unload supplies and donations.

On loading day, a driver backs-in our container to the loading dock giving us only 2 hours to stuff every nook and cranny full of crates, boxes, and bags. From there we pray for the long ocean voyage until the container finally arrives at port in Dar-es-Salaam. Then the "fun" begins dealing with Tanzanian port authorities and customs agents. If all goes well, we expect the entire process until the truck arrives at the mission to take about 3 to 4 months. The truth is we are really left to the mercy of the port and pray we crossed every "T" and dotted every "I".

But the day the container arrives is truly a wonderful day as all of the hard work accomplished both stateside and in Tanzania finally comes to fruition. To the missionaries, it's "Christmas"; to the patients in the hospital, it's better quality care and tokens of compassion; to the school kids, it's receiving tools to learn about the world and the God who created it. To you who donate and contribute financially to these projects, it's rewards laid out in heaven!



Preparing pallets for loading

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Kristi's Korner

April has come and gone which means we are nearing the arrival of our first visitors! This summer is not as filled as the summers usually would be, but we still have a fair amount of visitors still planning to come.

This is exciting for many reasons but one being our visitors can bring us things we forgot or found out we needed after our move that are unavailable or hard to find here. I've been accumulating a long list since February titled "things from America." The list consists of things like chocolate chips, Reece's, pepperonis, and Mac and cheese. You know...necessities. Ok, maybe not necessities but these are some of the things we are missing here in Tanzania that would be a nice treat every now and then.

We also have things like homeschool curriculum, the next size clothes for the girls, vitamins, children's medicine, a new watch band (mine broke), and a shower curtain on the list. We've been looking for a shower curtain since we moved here. We've been surprised at how hard it's been to find one!

There are many things we became so used to having in the states and now are learning to live without. It goes to show you people can acclimate to any situation.

This past month we all have spent time building relationships and friendships with people here on the mission. Eden and Emmy have found a group of friends they enjoy playing with and we are so thankful for that. We've become good friends with Ezekiel and his family, and the girls enjoy playing at their house. They recently moved to a house here on the mission, and it's been a huge blessing to be able to walk and visit them. The girls enjoy being at their house so much that sometimes when I go to bring them back home they cry not wanting to leave. We are so thankful they have acclimated and are enjoying living in Tanzania.



Nathan's Notes



Another month has flown by here on the Chimala Mission. While our first 3 months are coming to a close, we certainly are excited about what the upcoming months have in store for us. The "summer" (which is winter here) is about to begin – gospel meetings, visitors, and area-wide events will be starting, and its going to be a busy but very exciting time for all of us here!

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, there is an almost literal never-ending list of work to do here on the mission. We are still working to finish plowing and planting the remaining garden areas down on the base of the mission, with us growing Chinese cabbage, various greens, tomatoes, onions, and other vegetables. We are also plotting out some new plans for our pigs, as we suffered a major loss due to the African Swine Fever (ASF) coming into Chimala, losing many of our pigs. On a more positive note, the goats and ducks have been blessing the mission with more offspring! Last I counted we have six new goats and ten new ducks! They are a joy to watch grow, and Eden and Emmy are absolutely fascinated by them!

The Primary and Secondary schools are also back in school from a two-week break. They will continue until around the beginning of June for Winter break. Our goals over the next few months are to begin working closer with some of the students, myself with the young men and Kristi with the young women.

We are also beginning to travel more to sister churches - while we initially have been working and attending with the Mission congregation, we are beginning to be able to visit outside more with several of the other congregations in the area. There are dozens of small churches around Chimala, and we are easily able to book our Sundays with visits!

This year, we are so fortunate to have a few groups coming to visit for the summer! Our first group is a collection of students from Freed-Hardeman University, as well as additional adult chaperones. They will be arriving around the end of May and will be working all over the mission, but primarily with a traveling VBS for many of the congregations here in Chimala.

We will also have many invited guests who have not obeyed the gospel, and we pray this is a great opportunity to reach out and share the Word of God with them. Please pray for opportunities, for strength, and for willing hearts. As always, we pray continued blessings on you, your families, and all of the Lord's work around the globe.



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No Systemic Racism Here

Jesus said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). Children are not born racists. Neither are children born holding grudges against people's ancestors. Our country's current insanity over supposed "systemic racism" could learn a lesson observing Tanzanian and American children playing together. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). Children are taught racist thoughts. Children are taught to hate others based upon their skin color. Children are taught by Scripture that all lives matter (cf. John 3:16; Acts 10:34-35). All people need the grace of God—none deserve it. People need to listen to more Bible, and less hot rhetoric. Howell

