



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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First Summer Visitors—Eleven People

Chimala's first summer visitors have now come and gone. A group of 11 visitors mostly from Freed-Hardeman University arrived at the mission from the 20th to the 30th of May. They consisted of seven college students from FHU, two high-school students, and a married couple who served as chaperones. Their names are Martin and Julie Johnson (chaperones), Mattie Adams, Taylor Britton, Ansley Giles, Colin Henley, Xavier Hofstetter, Sarah Johnson, Seth Johnson, Keyley Wadlington and Hailey Watson.

Among the various ways they assisted at the mission included conducting three VBS's at Lyambogo, Chimala A, and Chimala B (mission congregation) with stories and skits for the children and young people. Even though they participated in worship services (young men), held devos at the boys' and girls' dorms, and assisted at the hospital; having American visitors is a great encouragement not only to the resident missionaries but also to the entire mission staff. Mary and I would loved to have been there with them, but it is simply impossible with so many variations in scheduled events. But we are very thankful Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy were there to help them feel at home.

As most groups do when visiting Africa, on

their last few days they went on a safari. They split into two groups: the larger group went to Mikumi Nat. Park to see the large animals;



while Nathan took a smaller group of four visitors on a day-trip to the Kitulo Nat. Park.

We want to thank this group for taking the time and interest to visit Chimala and for the encouragement they were to everyone there. The memories they made and the impressions they left upon the people at Chimala will last forever. (Read Nathan's blog for more details.)

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Another Container Update

Following the departure of our recent shipping container, the last tracking point was on-board the MSC CHANNE in Rotterdam, South Holland. From there it was transferred to the MSC TOPAZ and is currently (June 1) moored at Sines, Portugal. Tomorrow (June 2) the ship will be departing for Mundra Gujarat, India where it will arrive the 29th of June.

Without knowing any other port stops, our container is scheduled to arrive at the Dar-es-Salaam port on the 9th of July. Fortunately I plan to be at Chimala at that time and am praying that with the help of our clearing agent, we will be able to deal with whatever matters need to be handled. Our goal is get the container cleared, transported to Chimala and unloaded before Mary and I leave Tanzania on the 3rd of August. In behalf of the Chimala Mission, your prayers would be most appreciated.



Two souls baptized into Christ resulting from visitors' efforts.

Howell Ferguson

It's Time To Go Back

It is only a week away before we head back to Chimala for our summer visit. The date of departure is June 10th with a return date of the 4th of August. Different dates could have been chosen; but what normally determines the travel dates is the cost of the tickets. In the case of this summer's trip, this decision puts us at the mission right before the women's seminar (June 15-17) followed by the preacher's seminar (June 22-24). We will also be at Chimala during the gospel campaigns although we will not be using the "Gospel Chariot" this year as we have in the past.

Every parent enjoys bragging occasionally about their children. I would be amiss not to say that I am very proud of the work Nathan and Kristi have been doing at the Chimala Mission since they arrived this past February. Anyone who has ever lived on the mission will tell you that there is a big difference in visiting the mission and actually living there—when everyone including visitors or family leaves and you remain behind. There comes over you a reality check because you're not going with them. Not everyone can do that, will do that, or perhaps even should do that.

But Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy have been steadfast and resilient through what is normally the most difficult time of overseas mission work—the first few months. While Nathan is younger than most of the department heads at the mission, he is respected as a leader and listened-to as someone with a good head on his shoulders. Kristi likewise has demonstrated flexibility and toughness—making the best out of less-than-ideal circumstances. They have had to learn quickly in many areas. Nathan has had to learn how to drive on the "wrong" side of the road from the right seat while shifting gears with the left hand. Kristi has had to learn how to cook from scratch satisfying little girls who, like most, were very acquainted to American fast-foods & sweets!

Speaking of our children, our daughter Sarah Hall and her husband Jeremy plan to join Mary and me for the last two weeks of our stay at Chimala. Sarah likewise had not been back to Chimala since our first visit as a family back in 2002. She has been dreaming of returning to Africa and finally has been given an opportunity to come back even if for only a couple of weeks. We are excited that 4-out-of-5 of us will be back together in Tanzania. Only Seth will not be with us, although he did return to visit Chimala in 2012.

What is amazing to me, is that after working so hard to gather-up supplies and collect items from churches and individual Christians that were loaded onto the container; we still have a lot of things that didn't make it and will have to be packed into suitcases. Furthermore Menard, Nathan and Kristi have been giving us last-minute requests for needed things like rubber hydram disks, doppler baby monitors, security guard rechargeable flashlight batteries, grape jelly (can't get there), etc. Furthermore, various Christians have been bringing us items here-and-there, but space and weight allowance are quickly running out!

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Visitors Making Memories at Chimala Mission



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Mama Eden Meets Eden

While working at the Ailsa farm behind the Chimala Mission in 2015, we occasionally ate at a small café in the village of Matamba we called “Mama Eden’s”. Back in the states Nathan and Kristi were expecting their first child and had decided to name her “Eden.” After returning from furlough in 2016 we told Mama Eden about our newborn granddaughter who had been named Eden. Fast forward over five years, Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy made a visit up to Matamba where Mama Eden and Eden met face-to-face. Mama Eden was so impressed that she presented Eden with some nice gifts. Rare moments in time like these are often the beginning of relationships that open doors of great opportunity. Let us not miss them when they come our way.

Howell

