



The CHALLENGE of Africa

APRIL 2022 | VOL 4 NO 4

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

Spring-Summer Trip to Chimala Mission

This is the first *Challenge* newsletter to be written since Mary and I arrived at Chimala Mission in mid-April. It is always an exiting moment when we first enter the Chimala area and begin seeing the signs along the highway after crossing the Chimala River. I have never grown tired of seeing those familiar landmarks just as dozens of missionaries before us.

We have a lot on our plate with this particular trip lasting around 85 days. Presently a number of things we wanted to accomplish have either been completed or are already in the process of being done. Here are some of these areas:

- Worshipped 1st Sunday with Mission congregation.
- Ensured Cheryl Bode was settled-in.
- Hired Exavery Ngullo as new Executive Director at Chimala Mission Hospital.
- Set up yearly subscription service for CSOP library system.
- Assisted in the baptism of two young men.
- Distributed New Bibles to CSOP instructors from Dalraida Church of Christ.
- Visited Isitu church of Christ 4/24/22.
- Held 2-hour meeting with TUGHE (Tanzania workers' union).
- Began construction of the new sterile surgical theater.
- Held our first CSOP meeting.
- I preached Sunday AM at Chosi A congregation.



Nathan Ferguson distributes new *Defending the Faith Study Bibles* by Apologetics Press, courtesy of Dalraida Church of Christ.

This is assuredly only the beginning of many more projects and goals we hope to get done while we are here. There is never a shortage of works to fulfill at Chimala Mission.

Howell Ferguson

Construction of Sterile Operation Theater Begins

Finally the time has arrived to begin construction on the long-awaited new sterile operation theater at the Chimala Mission Hospital. Even with the temporary set-back due to the lightning strike described on the following page, progress is being made on the foundation as well as relocating existing electric poles. Cheryl Bode helped with adapting our former operation theater drawings more in harmony with the existing hospital structure. This will allow for better flow of patients from pre-op to post-op recovery.

With a larger operation theater, we will have room to expand for possible future orthopedic surgery—a long-need service at CMH. There is also specialized lighting equipment from a previous container shipment ready to be installed adding even greater quality to surgical services offered by CMH. These additions are designed to offer higher quality medical service for the people of Tanzania.

This summer's arrival of nursing students from Harding and OCU will coincide with the on-going construction allowing them to witness the progress and growth at CMH. With an increase in professional and caring health service, the ultimate goal of Chimala Mission is to reach the "inner man" of the heart through the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Workers laying the foundation of new operation theater addition.

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Howell Ferguson

Exavery Ngullo - New Hospital Executive Director



When the need arose to seek out a new director for the Chimala Mission Hospital, there were not too many candidates with the skills and education to fill the position. Exavery Ngullo, a current CSOP instructor with both a bachelor's and master's degree in Bible from Bear Valley Bible Institute, was currently pursuing a law degree having already completed most of his studies. Without any potential candidates for the position, we asked Exavery to help us on a temporary basis. After seven exceptional months of graciously serving CMH, it became obvious to us that Exavery was the man for the job. His official start date is the 1st of May.



There are few things more enjoyable than speaking to a classroom full of CSOP students.

Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

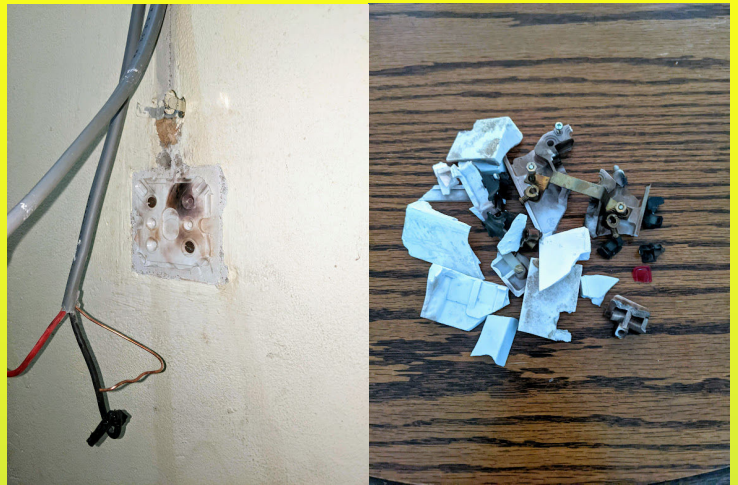
Howell Ferguson

Lightning Strike Damage to the Mission

Upon arriving at Chimala on the 16th of April, we saw with our own eyes the harm that occurred to this year's planting season due to the lack of rain. And just when an early dry season seemed inevitable, occasional heavy rains returned. The most intense up to this point was on Wednesday afternoon of the 27th, when a powerful lightning strike hit multiple buildings across the mission including the Pampa house, Carruth house, Smalling house, the hospital, Menard's house, and possibly other buildings. Mary and I were sitting inside our Land Cruiser waiting for the rains to slacken so we could pick up Cheryl to go to Bible study at Chosi A when the blinding lightening cracked. Mary screamed, Cheryl said she screamed, Momma Betty couldn't talk for five minutes, Nathan's kids started crying, and Rudy was shaking and scratching feverishly trying to get inside the house.

Fortunately, no one was hurt from what could be described as a spider-web type lightning strike of the mission. However, several electronic components were knocked out by the lightning strike. The water heater burned-up and the main power connector was blown off the wall and disintegrated in the Pampa house. Menard's TV was knocked out. My laptop will no longer accept a charge, and we lost a couple of small USB appliances. But the hospital seems to have been the hardest hit. The lightning knocked out a control board on the x-ray machine, the only operational solar power inverter, two computers and several lights.

The estimated cost of all the damages is yet to be determined. However, a recent price we received for a new solar power inverter is six-million T-shillings (\$2,609). Fortunately, we had just received a donation to replace a ruined power inverter and batteries at the hospital. But once that inverter is replaced, we will only be back to where we were before the storm struck. We would certainly be grateful to anyone who can help us repair or replace these damaged items (I will take care of my own damages).



Howell Ferguson

The Blessedness of Promise

In last month's newsletter, Cheryl Bode described the sad medical condition of a three-month baby boy, named "Promise" who was born without a rectum. Cheryl and CSOP director, Frank Mwashikumbulu have been helping Promise in various ways. Eventually the baby will need multiple surgeries in order to live a "normal" life. If all goes well, a group of specialists will be in Mbeya in June who can begin the series of needed surgeries.

Very recently, however, Promise's mother and grandmother studied the Bible with Frank and both were baptized into Christ by Alphone Simion. Praise God that baby Promise is now receiving physical help; and in God's divine providence, he has provided an avenue of the promise of eternal salvation to his mother and grandmother. (cf. John 9:1-3)





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Chimala Missionaries



Cheryl, Eden, Rowan, Kristi, Emmy, Nathan, Mary, and Howell



Taking a pause in the day for conversation, grandkids, and the cat.