



The CHALLENGE of Africa

MAY 2022 | VOL 4 NO 5

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



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This Issue

Redeeming The Time **P.1**

Brief Update on Needs **P.2**

Book Bags To Primary School **P.2**

Chimala "A" Building Upgrade **P.3**

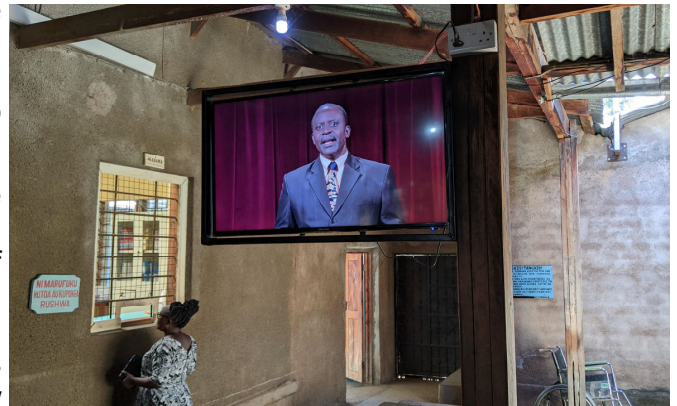
Why We Believe in Chimala **P.4**

Howell Ferguson *Redeeming The Time*

In the work of evangelizing, we are always trying to find ways to increase the opportunity of the gospel of Christ to be spread however and wherever it can be achieved. Everyday there are many non-Christians present on the campus of the Chimala Mission for various reasons. People come to receive medical treatment, prescription medicines, have their babies, and other health reasons. Children from non-Christian homes attend our Christian schools where they have the opportunity to hear Bible teaching and see Christianity in action.

These and many other avenues are opportunities that God has put in our hands for good use. Just recently we began utilizing a TV monitor located in the hospital waiting room which previously aired nature documentaries or some other local secular programming. That seemed like such a wasted opportunity to otherwise teach the gospel.

People are watching these quality presentation videos produced by World Video Bible School out of Maxwell, Texas. Local preachers I have known for over 20 years such as Christopher Mwakabanji, Charles Heberth, and Francis Wechesa (now back in Uganda) are the gifted men teaching these lessons. Among the film topics are, "Why Are There So Many Churches?", "What Must I Do To Be Saved?", "Where Do We Go When We Die?", "Church History" and others—all taught in the Swahili language.



A video Bible lesson by Christopher Mwakabanji.

Nearly five hours of quality and relevant Bible teaching is now available in the hospital's waiting room for people who otherwise are just passing the time. The good use of such time is certainly within the meaning of Paul's words, "*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil*" (Ephesians 5:15-16; cf. Colossians 4:5). May we seize every opportunity and use it to God's glory!

Howell Ferguson Brief Update on Chimala Mission Needs

There are ever-changing needs at the Chimala Mission. And often, even the existing needs require amended and increased. Since Mary and I arrived at the mission in mid-April, I have received numerous requests or learned of changes in circumstances or prices. Below is a list of needs or adjustments :

- Preachers/orphan school kids program is always in need of more funding.
- Farm truck prices have increased. Currently we have \$12,000 on-hand. We need an additional \$5,000 to purchase a Mitsubishi Canter tipper.
- Estate foreman's existing motorcycle "piki piki" is worn out. He is asking for help to replace it. The estimated cost for new is \$1,300.
- Concrete floor of the women's ward at the hospital has large holes and broken places. It needs resurfaced and tiled at the cost of \$1,500.
- We have funds to buy a new 3-bay refrigerated morgue. However it has been determined that a larger building needs to be constructed. The additional cost is approx. \$3,600.
- The Tanzanian government is raising the minimum wage of workers 23% (has been the same since 2015). That interprets into about \$1,000 per month more the Chimala Mission needs to operate.
- Miscellaneous needs include :
 - A CSOP instructor who needs \$1,000 to buy tin roof sheets for a house for his wife and children.
 - A Chimala Mission Primary School teacher who requests \$87 to buy fertilizer.

Note: Due to poor rains this season, many local farmers' fields have completely failed. Already some people are without food; and estimates are that people will be hit the hardest in the month of October.

Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Howell Ferguson

Book Bags Given to Primary School Children

It only takes one visit to the Chimala Mission Primary School to convince you without question that they win the award for being the noisiest place on the mission! That's because there are approximately 450 children present on the campus ages 6-12 being educated , from a Christian worldview. The sound of so many voices is actually music to our ears because we know they are in a primary school that cares not only about their educational needs, but more importantly, about their souls.

On a Tuesday morning, Mary, Nathan and I visited CMPS to deliver 450 hand-made book bags. Mary has worked on-and-off for weeks gathering all the school supplies and filling them with age-appropriate items as much as possible. As these bags are all hand-made from the States, we make sure these children know that they are from churches of Christ in the US because God's people care about them.



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Howell Ferguson

Chimala "A" Church of Christ New Upgrade Near Completion

After teaching the adult Bible class and preaching at the Chimala A congregation on a Sunday morning, a couple of the leading men of the church asked if I could help them with the completion of their new church building. It is a fact that the church there has outgrown their old building, and they have completed about 75% of the construction on their new facility which is located adjacent to their current building. They are in need of a second door, windows, electrical, and eventually plastering of the interior walls. In the past as a general policy, if a church constructed the foundation and walls, we would complete their building with the roof. While not a policy now per-se, we keep the idea open to churches which demonstrate effort and sacrifice.

The Sunday we visited Chimala A, Mary taught the children—the number of kids grew the entire time of the class period—inside the new nearly-completed building. Chimala A church of Christ is a thriving congregation of the Lord's people which has already invested heavily in their new building. I commend them for their vision and sacrifice; however, it has been a struggle for them. I have always encouraged Christians to help support those churches who have demonstrated a willingness to first help themselves with their available resources. This church has done that. **Anyone who would like to assist Chimala A to complete their new place of assembly, please know that for about \$2,500 this church can complete and secure their building ready for their worship assemblies and Bible classes.**





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	Missionary Support—Howell Ferguson	
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Why We Believe In Chimala Mission

Why would American churches and individual Christians spend hard-earned money in an ever-changing and uncertain economy on mission work on the other side of the earth? Elders and Christian families without a doubt ponder that thought quite often. There are certainly many valid reasons; but considering the value of the human soul and the endless duration of eternity, there really is no doubt as to why.

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” Matt. 18:3. When is the last time you saw a little child amazed at the Bible’s Creation story? Why do children listen with amazement the first time they hear the great faith stories of Abraham, of Noah’s flood, of Gideon, David & Goliath. Why is the story of Jesus’ virgin birth, death and resurrection all for the sake of saving mankind of special interest to them? Jesus designed them this way. Children need to know not only about God’s love, but they also serve as examples to us of simple obedient faith.

