

The CHALLENGE of Africa

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Howell Ferguson **Do Something**

The Eagles came out with a song in 2007 entitled, "Do Something." Undoubtedly I don't know all the meaning of Schmit and Henley's words, but I think they were hitting on something Christians can use. It may sound like a broken record, but doesn't it seem like the last several years have been full of chaos and uncertainty? Politics could certainly crowd our thoughts; but just think of the past few years. Covid-19 basically paralyzed our country—even the world. For those who are a little older, the number "2020" brings back to mind the words spoken by Hugh Downs and Barbara Walters in their popular TV investigative reporting. Who would have ever thought that this number now brings to mind the year of tragedies we witnessed all around?—the shutdowns, the fear and uncertainty, the social distancing and masks that all-but-alienated us from one-another, the riots, the burning and killings surrounding George Floyd's death, and the deep division in our country that seems to be getting worse every day.

We have two choices: We can ignore all of the above and act like it's all normal and inconsequential to our individual lives. I wish it were. Or we can re-evaluate our foundations as a nation, people, citizens, families and individuals before God. Our world is sick—always has been—but in our lifetime, it at least appears to be escalating. The timeclock for our souls' sojourn on this earth is ticking by. Surely every generation has had these concerns and reflections. And no—ours is really no different than previous generations lest we forget the events of two world wars, the Great Depression, the American Civil War, and American Revolutionary War, etc. True, "there is no new thing under the sun." Yet it is our generation which faces today's upheavals which challenge and rock our foundations of familiarity.

So what does all of this mean to Christians today? Do we wring our hands in panic and worry while doing nothing? Do we put on our stoic faces as if we're untouched at all? May I suggest we do what all past generations have done to survive. Pray in a way knowing that all things are in God's hands. Yet act in a way that reinforces our belief that God's way *has always* and *will ultimately prevail*. If we lack in actively seeking ways to do good to our fellow man, let us begin there. If we lack in faith to believe that our consistent good works will produce a reaping if we faint not, then let us seek for deeper faith. If we feel our lives are meaningless, begin helping someone today. Do something.

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

A WORK OVERSEEN BY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Howell Ferguson

December Chimala Visit

For the past several days, I have been looking at airline ticket prices. I know there are some occasional "great deals" out there (14 hour layover in Antarctica, lol); but besides those, long-gone is the day of finding \$1,000 flights. You have heard the news that the US East Coast is soon to run out of diesel. Can you guess what Jet-A fuel is made of? Basically, it's the same thing as diesel or kerosine. That means higher prices and possibly reduced number of airline flights in the very near future.

Currently a typical round-trip ticket from Nashville to Dar-es-Salaam on Delta/KLM is running around \$1,850 per person on the low end. So very likely by the time you receive this newsletter by email (or later by snail mail), these tickets will already be bought. Fortunately, our multi-entry Tanzanian visa will be valid until the 25th of February. So that will save us \$100 a piece.

Unlike previous trips, this visit will not be as long as the past summer's trip was where we stayed for nearly three months. But that doesn't mean it will be less important. Lord willing, we are traveling to Chimala in mid-December in time for Tanzania's planting season. This is felt to be very important to assure we plant as much of the right seed in as much land as possible at the right time. Besides that reason, Mary and I also want to be with Nathan's family so they would not be alone for Christmas. Remember, Tanzania isn't just a couple of hours drive down the highway. Mr. & Mrs. Claus can't let the grandkids down!

Handling the Chimala Mission finances this year has been somewhat of a struggle. We have made some cuts; but so far, so good. What we need help with, however, is to cover the cost of our flights. At this point, to cover both our international flights ($$1,850 \times 2$) and TZ domestic flights ($$109 \times 2$) we will need (\$3,918). Any help to cover these travel expenses would be a great help to us. Thank you for your consideration.



Howell Ferguson

List of Supplies Needed for the Chimala Mission

For many years now you as a supporter of the Chimala Mission have been generous in helping provide supplies for CSOP, CMPS, HCSS, and CMH as well as the mission estate. By receiving these supplies, the Chimala Mission has been able to do so much good in all areas of service.

Lord willing, next year we will be sending a 40' container to ship what we collect to Tanzania. This project can be approached by churches or individuals in a big way or small. Smaller collections can be mailed to the Dalraida church address (see front or back page), or contact me for a pickup of larger items. Obviously, we don't expect any single person or church to do all of this, but every bit helps. Below is a list of needed items:

- School supplies:
 - Pens (black, blue, red), #2 pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners
 - ◆ School scissors (for younger & older), protractors, rulers, paper cutter, document tray organizer
 - ◆ Spiral notebooks, Duo-Tang pocket folders, typing paper, file folders, 3-ring notebooks
 - Encyclopedias, Websters dictionaries
 - Scotch tape rolls/dispensers, staplers & staples for teachers
 - Crayons (24-ct boxes), white *dustless chalk* (Hagoromo or Crayola)
 - Washable markers, colored pencils, dry-erase markers & erasers
 - ♦ Liquid Paper, bottle glue, glue sticks
 - ♦ Classroom clocks, basketballs, soccer balls, tennis equipment

CSOP

- ♦ Pens, pencils, colored pencils, rulers
- English Bibles, Bible maps, dry-erase boards and markers
- Sleeping bags for student campaigns
- Printing/typing paper, spiral notebooks
- Missionary supplies:
 - ♦ Bar soap, soft-soap/refills, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant
 - Small appliances (toaster, mixer, coffee maker/grinder, etc.)
 - ◆ Anti-itch cream, triple antibiotic ointment, anesthetic cream
 - ♦ LED bulbs (110v screw type), acetone, bath towels, area rugs
 - ◆ Long-lasting cookware (wood, stainless steel, cast iron)
- Special requests:
 - ◆ Used desktop or laptop computers (w/MS Office). A good way to get rid of unused working computers taking up closet space!
 - Student microscopes, used X-ray machine (operational)
 - ◆ Used medical/surgical tools—German made in good condition
 - Hospital grade steel or plastic tables or cabinets
 - ◆ Freezer for school kitchen, sewing machine
 - Heavy-duty gloves, rakes, extension ladders, wheelbarrows

Note: items with expiration dates can be no less than one year.

Howell Ferguson

Fellow-Laborers by the Providence of the Lord

The apostle Paul admonished the churches of Galatia, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). As many of you already know, a little over 20 years ago, our family lived and worked as missionaries in the northern Tanzanian city of Arusha. During our years of service there, we made many wonderful and lasting Christian friendships. One of those families we were endeared to was the family of David & Paulina Bayi and their children. They are a wonderful Christian family who have been a stabilizing influence among the churches of Christ in Arusha for many years.

Back then as their little family was growing, Paulina was expecting another child, but she became sick as her pregnancy neared full-term. As a very humble and unassuming person, Paulina didn't complain but endured the sickness. But when Isaac Kusupa and I learned that Paulina was sick, we took her to a local



Sarah Daudi Emeda Bayi

Arusha hospital where she was diagnosed with significant vitamin deficiency. Once we learned of her need, we stopped by a local market and bought her a variety of fruits & vegetables. Paulina soon recovered and gave birth to a healthy baby girl whom she named "Sarah" after Mary's Swahili name, "Momma Sarah" (mothers are frequently called by the name of their first-born child).

It has been about 20 years since those days in Arusha; but recently we learned that David & Paulina's Sarah was graduating from nursing school. David sent me a message with Sarah's nursing school graduation pictures, and asked if there was a possibility that Sarah might be considered for employment at the Chimala Mission

Hospital. As we are stressing the importance of hiring Christians at the Chimala Mission, we have gladly welcomed Sarah to become part of the CMH nursing team. Already Sarah is working hard in the pediatric ward to gain experience by learning all that she can in an effort to assist children with their medical needs.

Please pray for Sarah's success. And please pray that God will provide the Chimala Mission with more trained Christian workers—preachers, Bible teachers, doctors, nurses, school teachers, and others to strengthen this vital Tanzanian effort we call the Chimala Mission.



David & Paulina Bayi (middle two) in Arusha 2022





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MEMORIAL | HONOR | BIRTHDAY | ANNIVERSARY

You can give a gift of any size to Chimala Mission to honor someone special or in memory of a loved one who passed from this life. Your gift will help the poor and help continue the preaching of the gospel to many that have never heard the truth.

(This form is provided for your convenience)

| I would like to make a gift in the amount of: \$ | | |
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| In memory of | | |
| In honor of | | |
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| Please send a copy of gift acknowledgment to: | | |
| ., , | | |
| Please send a copy of gift acknowledgment to: Name Address | | |

Please make checks payable to: Chimala Mission

| ٧ | Designate My Gift Toward | Amount |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|
| | Evangelism | |
| | Radio Program | |
| | CSOP Student Support | |
| | Bibles | |
| | Farm Program | |
| | Hospital | |
| | Chimala Mission Primary School | |
| | Herring Christian Secondary School | |
| | Missionary Support—Howell Ferguson | |
| | Missionary Support—Nathan Ferguson | |
| | Preachers' Kids School Fees | |
| | Shipping Container | |
| | Estate | |
| · | Where Needed | |



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Subscribe online to our newsletter and you will save Chimala Mission postage and printing costs! That money can be used for other things in Tanzania and help more people.

Please subscribe online at www.chimalamission.com/get-updates and let us know if we can remove your name from our snail-mail list.

"New" Farm Truck for the Mission



We are deeply grateful for those whose contributions made this possible.