



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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A WORK OVERSEEN BY



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Howell Ferguson A Perk Of This Work

We frequently refer to the Chimala Mission as a “work” of the Lord’s church; and it is. Not only are there many daily efforts that take place in the various aspects of the mission; there is also a great deal of work that is done stateside. The overseeing eldership and mission committee at Dalraida have the responsibility of staying informed and keeping the Chimala Mission biblically sound in teaching, practice and active in good works. Our stateside secretary, Amy Free takes care of so many clerical details including the reception, recording, and transferring of funds to Chimala. Mark Davidson is a Dalraida deacon that helps in so many ways including keeping the Dalraida elders and mission committee updated on important Chimala Mission matters.

And then there is my role as the “stateside coordinator”—somewhat of a middle-manager in tying all of these areas together. Naturally, I always enjoy being in Tanzania and working beside those good brethren helping them in problem-solving and assisting them in any way they need. On average, I make a couple of visits to Chimala per year.

Stateside, however, my job also requires a good bit of traveling to give presentation reports to supporting churches. While I put a lot of miles on my car, it is truly an honor and joy to visit so many congregations of God’s people within our wonderful brotherhood. There are few things I enjoy more than telling people how the Chimala Mission has been such a blessing to thousands of people over the years—and continues to do so. It is a much-loved perk of my work. **Call me to schedule an updated report to your congregation.**



One of the many wonderful churches that love and support Chimala.

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Howell Ferguson

Lee Wright Update

We continue to ask anyone reading this newsletter to consider supporting **Lee, Tara, Emily and Brody Wright** in their goal of raising financial support to work full-time as Chimala missionaries. Lee has had good success thus far; however, there is still much to do plus a number of up-front expenses that they are facing.

Since they will be residing full-time in Tanzania, Lee and his family are required to get their residence permits. Furthermore, Tanzania requires full-time residents to also have a work permit. Both the residence and work permits are good for two years and are renewable. But in recent years, these permits have become increasingly more expensive. The Wrights have already applied for their permits, paid the costs, and submitted the necessary documents.

In the meantime, Lee has to continue to provide for his family. Both Lee and Tara are making sacrifices to take care of their family, but they are in need of some additional living expenses until their move to Tanzania. Because of the length of time it takes to get both permits and raise adequate financial support, Lee and Tara have decided to push their moving date to June of next year (2024).

Lee writes: *"I want to reassure you that we are still completely committed to the work in Chimala. Tara tells people we left our hearts in Chimala, and I agree. All four of us are VERY much looking forward to beginning our work there."*

Please contact Lee at (432) 271-6873 or email him at leew4442@yahoo.com for more information or to schedule an appointment for a personal visit. They are ready to get to work, but they need your help!

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www.chimalamission.com/donate



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CSOP Graduation Next Month

Very soon the Chimala School of Preaching will be conducting their commencement exercises for the 2023 graduates. Already preparation is being made for this occasion in the purchase of graduation suits and gifts. Food will also be bought for the special meal provided for the graduates, their families, friends and special invited guests. Normally a guest speaker will be asked to attend and offer some encouraging words to the graduates.

I fondly recall our first graduation of the Chimala Bible College in 2008 with ten graduates. That was a milestone in the history of the Chimala Mission as these graduates received a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies through the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver.

Most of the graduates

are continuing to work in preaching and teaching; and some are working at the Chimala Mission—even teaching currently at CSOP.

For example, Bernard Kulanga is teaching at CSOP and is an elder of the mission congregation; Menard Swila is serving as the mission administrator and preaches; Boaz Kasiba is teaching at CSOP and preaches; Timothy Mkwama is an accountant at HCSS and preaches



Timothy Mkwama (left) standing beside his father, Linkos Mkwama at 2008 CSOP graduation.

occasionally; Exavery Ngullo served as a teacher at CSOP for several years and is currently the director of Chimala Mission Hospital and has his law degree; Salick Ghambi preaches and serves as a director for a school of preaching in Malawi; Joseph Haonga served as CBI director for several years and currently is preaching; and Asifiwe Mwasambungu serves to maintain the water treatment system at the CMH and conducts occasional chapel devotionals. Even before 2008, preacher training has been a core part of the work at the Chimala Mission and will continue to be.



CBI Graduating Class of 2008

Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

Howell Ferguson

Strengths and Weaknesses of Long-term vs Short-term Missions

Long-term mission work

Strengths:

1. More time to learn the language (key to understanding culture).
2. More time to develop trust & respect with the local people (relationships – lack of is a complaint of local people). Long-lasting relationships are formed that can be carried to future mission efforts.
3. Can develop plan of work more effectively because it takes time to have a deeper understanding of culture, circumstances, politics, etc.
4. Practically speaking, a better circumstance in which to overcome culture shock. With enough time, you're more effective after overcoming this struggle.

Weaknesses:

1. Takes much more preparation (raise funds, sell home, cars, possessions, etc.).
2. If missionary has a family, consideration must be made for them (school, safety, happiness, emotional security).
3. Fewer people willing to take-on long-term commitment (doctors, nurses, give up career, etc.).
4. May be more difficult to find long-term support commitments.
5. Potential for the local people to become reliant on missionary, missionary money, a “go-to” for all problems.
6. Loneliness is more likely an issue (although can be overcome with forming missionary team, frequent visitors, frequent video-conference with family, etc.).
7. Can “take its toll” on missionary and his family physically, socially, and psychologically if not paying attention to yourself and to them (cf. 1 Cor. 7:26-28).

Short-term mission work

Strengths:

1. Easier to find willing workers and financial support.
2. Does not disrupt much from “normal” life back home (keep house, job, dog, etc.).
3. Ideal trips for teaching in preacher training schools. Many of my short-term mission trips consisted of 1- or 2-week mission visits to preaching schools (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2).
4. Useful for encouraging existing works or refreshing and bringing cheer to long-term missionaries.
5. Great for creating “taste” for missions – can “get in your blood”. The interest in long-term missions was created in most long-term missionaries initially by short-term mission trips.
6. Effective way to keep the overseeing church informed and involved with longer-term missionaries and their works.
7. Elders stay informed/updated with on-site visits.
8. Members can be directly & personally involved by going. Although, it's easy to put on the “dog and pony show” just to impress short-term visitors.

Weaknesses:

1. Not much time to develop relationships with local people.
2. Potential for creating “rice” Christians. Person comes over for a few days and baptizes a “great prospect” that the local missionary could not reach. As soon as short-term person leaves, the newly-converted person is not seen again.
3. Short-term visitors are more vulnerable to “sad” stories from people who simply want money. There's no shortage of hustlers and con-artists looking for naïve short-term visitors.
4. Can become an unforgettable “glorified vacation”. There's nothing wrong with having an “unforgettable” time on the mission; but it should be because you were able to serve others rather than for your own benefit and entertainment.



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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: \$ _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

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	Missionary Support—Nathan Ferguson	
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Howell Ferguson
Iron Sharpens Iron

Few experiences are more enriching for a missionary than to spend time with another more experienced missionary. Those who have served as missionaries on the African continent share a special bond with one another.

Having an opportunity to participate at this years PTP (Polishing The Pulpit) event in Sevierville, TN, I had the opportunity to meet an old friend of the family and former missionary, Rod Rutherford and his dear wife, Brenda. Rod and Brenda spent seven years in Zambia and seven years in Tasmania (Australia). Besides local work in the States, Rod also participated in reaching 195 nations for fifteen years through radio, TV, the internet and through print. No one is ever too educated or too experienced that he can't benefit from the efforts of other servants of God.



Standing with Rod Rutherford at Sevierville Church of Christ.