

# The CHALLENGE of Africa

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## This Issue

Gratitude for Progress P.1

Reviewing the Hospital P.2

Keeping the Main Thing P.2

New Farm Tenant at Ailsa P.3

April Food's Brown-Es P.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

A WORK OVERSEEN BY

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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# **Gratitude for Progress**

There is really nothing more important than to express to our supporters how *incredibly grateful* we are for every penny of financial support the Chimala Mission receives. Because of your generosity, we have been able to accomplish so much. This support includes not only the essential ongoing monthly, bi-monthly, or yearly contributions that are vital to the daily operation of our mission but also special one-time gifts donated for outreach, events, equipment, construction, and repairs. It is absolutely impossible to do this in any significant way without you.

While an ongoing effort is underway to move the mission toward the goal of becoming self-sufficient, this proposal is long-term and will take time to be realized, as Tanzania remains a very poor country. Yet there is some good news. Even though from an older report, an **African Child Policy Forum** found that countries like Tanzania prioritize child-focused areas such as health and education, outperforming some wealthier nations in these areas (*The Guardian*, Dec 2010). This dedication underscores Tanzania's focus on long-term human development, notwithstanding their economic constraints.

Chimala Mission's gratitude, therefore, is not based on a meandering goal with no end in sight. With God's providential blessings, we work hard to incorporate the country's economic progress into the growth of God's kingdom in Tanzania—perhaps in some small way, similar to the way the church grew during the Roman Empire. We can, and should, use the resources and opportunities offered by the world to further the influence of the gospel. Biblically speaking, there are surely limitations, but many New Testament narratives reveal God opening "doors" of opportunity and providing protection for the gospel's progress (cf. Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12-13; Col. 4:3; Acts 14:27; 16:35-40; 17:6-9; 18:12-17; 22:29; 23:23-35; 25:14-27; Chps. 27 & 28; et al.).

As we seek to "ride the tide" of Tanzania's movement toward greater financial independence—and, in turn, the church's ability to become self-sustaining—we are continually humbled by the journey. This process involves literally thousands of Christians, both in Tanzania and the United States, whose support and faith make it all possible. The bond of fellowship we cherish so deeply today, Lord willing, may one day be expressed in ways that rely less on financial support. Until then, we remain deeply grateful. Thanks to EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

#### **Howell Ferguson**

## Reviewing the Hospital

The next several months will be crucial for the Chimala Mission Hospital as it receives a very thorough review. Some of the objectives are as follows:

- 1. Understand current operations better.
- 2. Develop a plan to put the hospital on sound financial footing.
- 3. Put into place proper accounting controls.
- 4. Identify areas for increased revenue (patients) and decreased expenses.
- 5. Reduce payor denials.
- 6. Implement online accounting system.
- 7. Develop meaningful operating statistics.
- 8. Assess electrical system needs.
- Assess and improve management/ employee relations.
- 10. Identify requirements for NICU.
- 11. "Right-size" the hospital for the future.

These are only some of the points we plan to address with the help of professionals from different fields of expertise. Our goal is to run a lean and effective Christian healthcare center.



Pictured above are Christians in a Zoom meeting with CMH management team discussing a possible future medical mission effort at Chimala.



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#### Howell Ferguson

## **Keeping the Main Thing**

Since becoming the stateside coordinator of the Chimala Mission, I've had fewer opportunities to teach at the Chimala School of Preaching (formerly CBC and CBI) than in the past. Honestly, I do miss those teaching days. But recently, due to the absence caused by Lee Wright's injury, I had the chance to step in and teach for a few hours on a subject of my choosing. After reviewing several topics and Bible texts, I settled on 1 Corinthians 14. Given the strong influence of Pentecostalism in Tanzania, I knew the students would be especially interested in the topic of tongues, speaking in tongues, and the so-called "tongues of angels." I'm no expert on the subject, but I hoped to offer something helpful that would equip the students to engage with fellow Tanzanians who may be confused or misled on this issue.

While we Americans often love preaching and teaching in foreign



mission fields—because it can be so different from what we're used to in the U.S.—we recognize how vital it is to train local brethren to take on these roles whenever possible. The sooner we can "work ourselves out of a job," the sooner the local church can fully operate and lead these works on their own.

Yet, until these mission works can stand on their own, resident missionaries and visiting workers should remain focused on the main thing—preaching and teaching the gospel whenever the opportunity arises. The gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to be "the power of God unto salvation" for people's souls until Christ returns. Let us keep showing the way.

## **Howell Ferguson**

# New Farm Tenant at Ailsa

Nine pregnant cows out of twenty-four head of cattle will eventually give us thirty-three before the end of 2025. This small herd has been moved up the mountain to their new home at the Ailsa farm at Kitekelo. In preparation to bringing up the livestock, the Chimala farm program has hired Paulo Kiana (son of Patrick Kiana, a Maasai preacher at Matabete) to tend to the herd. Maasai are legendary for their skills as cattle herdsmen.

Already, four old abandoned structures on the Ailsa farm have been restored and put to meaningful use. This marks a significant step toward building a productive and self-sustaining mission through farming. Additionally, these restoration efforts help reinforce our ownership of the property in the eyes of the government.



Paulo stands smiling before his recently restored home complete with a solar-powered electrical system.



Note the "panga" (machete) on his right hip.



Cattle graze nearby the corral and barn made from the trunks of small pine trees that did not survive recent wildfires. Notice the standing ruins of buildings used by missionaries from days long ago.



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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: \$
In memory of
In honor of
Please send a copy of gift acknowledgment to:
Name
Address
City/State Zip

### Please make checks payable to: Chimala Mission

V	Designate My Gift Toward	Amount
	Evangelism	
	Radio Program	
	CSOP Student Support	
	Bibles	
	Farm Program	
	Hospital	
	Chimala Mission Primary School	
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	Missionary Support—Nathan Ferguson	
	Missionary Support—Lee Wright	
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Please subscribe online at www.chimalamission.com/get-updates and let us know if we can remove your name from our snail-mail list.

## Howell Ferguson

# **April Food's Brown-Es**

How can you tease a missionary who's thousands of miles away from her favorite foods? How about an April Food's prank. Pictured below, Emily Wright presents her made-fromscratch fake brown-Es wrapped like a desert. Emmy Ferguson (bottom right) thought the brown-Es were quite tasty.

