



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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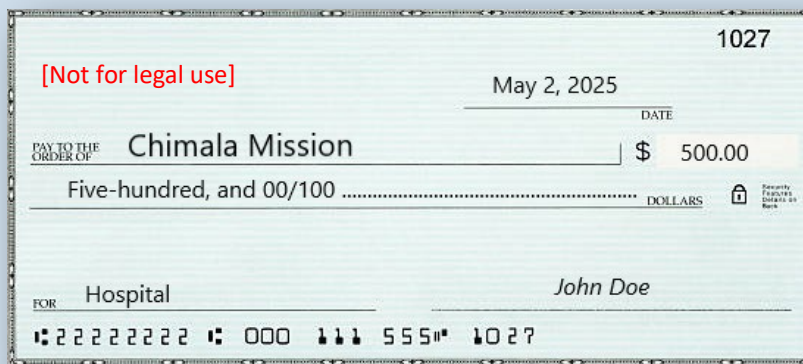
Howell Ferguson

Useful Reminder

Occasionally, someone asks me how to send a contribution check—specifically, where to send it and how to make it out. I'm always glad to provide that information and aim to make the process as clear as possible.

Because we sometimes have new supporters who may not be familiar with the details, I've included a sample check and envelope below to help ensure contributions are sent correctly. For a list of mission categories, please refer to the back page of this newsletter.

Please be sure to use the P.O. Box address—not the physical address—when mailing your contribution. Thank you!



Your Name
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c/o Dalraida Church of Christ
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Montgomery, AL 36109

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Howell Ferguson Making Something Beautiful

A little creativity and a lot of practice makes some pretty nice deserts. I am always amazed when people ask me *"What do you eat in Africa?"* My usual reply is, *"We could eat fish heads, bugs and snails if we wanted to, but we don't."* 😊 Some of the desserts pictured below were made by Jane, some by Kristi, and the coffee is generally Nathan's creation--although Kristi knows how to make cappuccinos and lattes too!

If I may stretch an illustration a little bit: like pies, cookies and gourmet coffees, God is able to make a *"new creation"* of saved people (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), who in Christ, *"being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord"* (Eph. 2:21). From the teachings of the Holy Spirit, God is able to make of sinful people something that we were not--holy and spiritually beautiful.



Howell Ferguson Going For One Reason

Living as a "missionary family" in a foreign land is truly a unique experience. Not many individuals or families choose such a lifestyle as a career choice. After all, nearly everything is different from what one normally experiences.

What feels "different" really depends on the person. I know I'm painting with broad strokes; but aside from language, living in parts of Europe or more westernized areas of the Middle East or Far East can feel pretty similar to life in the U.S. The same goes for many places in Latin or South America—adjusting to life there often isn't all that dramatic for someone coming from the States. And naturally, a lot of this depends on how much experience someone has spent living abroad.

But when you cross into what is known as "third world" countries, there are quite a few cultural adjustments that one must accept. And these differences are not just language, but they affect everything from food choices to social norms, daily routines, and even concepts of time and personal space.

For instance, the idea of punctuality may vary greatly, where being late is not considered disrespectful but rather a part of the flow of life. The approach to family dynamics, hospitality, and community can also be strikingly different, with a stronger emphasis on collective well-being over individualism.

Moreover, these adjustments often extend to how people view work, relaxation, and even the importance of ritual or tradition in daily life. It can truly be an eye-opening experience that challenges one's perspectives and broadens one's understanding of what it means to live in a diverse world.

First-world, third-world, and everything in-between; there is a singular universal void that only God can fill. Hebrews 13:8 says, *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever"*. There is one thing that transcends every culture, language, race and tribe: the benefit of the blood of Jesus Christ to take away our sins. For this reason Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). The human need for eternal salvation is cross-cultural. The gospel is for all!



Chimala missionaries visiting the Uyole congregation on a Sunday morning.

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www.chimalamission.com/donate



Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

Howell Ferguson

Working On The Home Front

It has been said, “Africa never sleeps”. What I mean, however, has nothing to do with the commonly portrayed vibrant nightlife of some African cities. Instead, I’m using this phrase to indicate that, in places like Chimala, there are always areas that require attention. Much of my work, therefore, involves helping you, our supporters and readers, to understand the constant demand of the Chimala Mission.

I remember listening to the vivid and powerful word pictures painted by the late Andrew Connally during lectureships and gospel meetings when I was a young preacher. Little did I know at the time, the stories and lessons he shared were shaped by countless miles of travel and years of labor—dedicated to understanding and overcoming an endless stream of challenges. Naturally, we all enjoy hearing about the fruitful “success” stories. But more often than not, we overlook or lose interest in the hard, messy work that made those successes possible. Make no mistake—the details behind those stories were very real.

As the stateside coordinator, my role centers on three key responsibilities: 1) Communicating the wishes of the Dalraida eldership, who serve as the overseeing body of the Chimala Mission; 2) Keeping YOU informed about the current state and ongoing work of the Chimala Mission; 3) Seeking out resources to assist mission activities, operations, and issues, and 4) YES - raising and maintaining sufficient financial funding so that the Chimala Mission can continue to carry out its spiritual responsibilities. All of this is done to the glory of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who revealed the divine plan to mankind.

At the present time, the Chimala Mission Hospital has been the focus of much of our attention. This is due in fact because of the severe financial burdens produced by a number of circumstances beyond our control. Fortunately, during the recent Freed-Hardeman Lectureships, I was able to discuss the issue with several people who have some expertise in hospital management and accounting. Among them:

First, Darrin Stapleton, former Chimala missionary and administrator, was very helpful in assessing some internal accounting mistakes based on his prior experience actually working with the hospital. In addition, his knowledge of Tanzanian culture adds a unique contribution to the equation.

Second, Mark Teske, co-producer of *Good News Today*, also has a background in hospital administration and accounting. He has graciously volunteered to assess the hospital’s current overall condition while offering a strategy to put the hospital on a sound financial footing. Currently Mark and I sit-in on the weekly hospital management team meetings by Zoom to help Mark better understand the hospital’s operations. Furthermore, the Dalraida overseers have agreed to send Mark and his wife, Michele (who is an RN), to Chimala in late August corresponding with our summer Chimala visit. We ask for your prayers as we seek assistance, whether financial or advisory, as we work on the home front for Chimala Mission.



One of many supporting churches of Christ that faithfully support the Chimala Mission during a “presentation report”.



Discussing the Chimala Mission Hospital with Darrin Stapleton and Mark Teske at the FHU Lectureship.



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(This form is provided for your convenience)

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Howell Ferguson

Walk Circumspectly

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16). Walking circumspectly takes on a whole new meaning in Tanzania—as illustrated by the photo below, where Eden is holding a DEAD seven-foot-long black mamba thanks to baba Nathan’s good aim. A good reminder: always watch your step! Yet, more dangerous than a snake, Christians should never let down their guard from sin but keep their focus on Christ.

