



# 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 Chimala Trip Objectives

This summer's visit to Chimala Mission was one of the shorter trips Mary and I have made in the past six years; and at the same time it was one of the most important visits. For one, we wanted to help Nathan and Kristi navigate four children plus luggage on the long and tedious journey home for a much-needed furlough.

But also, we are working with Mark Teske along with his wife, Michele—an RN, to help bring the Chimala Mission Hospital back on solid financial feet. So many areas of the hospital have been in great need of professional management. Mark, a former hospital administrator and financial accountant, is quite experienced in helping faltering hospitals.

Another objective of our visit was to further assess specific departments of the mission that are long overdue for repairs. And while not as spiritually-relevant as other areas of the mission, we simply cannot allow our buildings and infrastructure to crumble to the ground (cf. Luke 16:10). Anyone wishing to assist in specific areas, please contact me for details.

Furthermore, we are continually determining the best use of funds donated to supply the hospital with consistent & clean electricity as well as for faltering medical devices and equipment. This is admittedly a challenge that will remain as long as CMH exists.

Finally, please keep the Lee Wright family in your prayers as they continue serving at Chimala and 'holding down the fort' while we're away. Now that the rest of us are home, we look forward to visiting many of you to share an updated report on the work at Chimala. As always, please feel free to reach out to us as well!



**Group picture of Chimala missionaries (L to R): Lee, Brody, Emily, Tara, Eden, Kristi, Emmy, Ava, Nathan, Rowan, Mary & Howell.**

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## Howell Ferguson Excerpts from the Wrights

Below are a few excerpts from the **Wright Family** newsletter. They are currently alone at Chimala, but they do have a short 6-week furlough scheduled in early October. Please keep the Wrights in your prayer:

*"The farm received a wonderful addition this month. Thanks to a very generous donation, we were able to purchase a farm truck- a Toyota Helix with a little 2.4 diesel engine- that will make travel up to Ailsa much easier and a little less expensive. Brother Bell coined it the 'Ranch Rocket'."*

*"The cattle continue to grow and thrive on Ailsa. We are pleased with the growth so far."*

*"In getting the mountain ready for pasture grazing, we must do quite a bit of work to clear out debris, trees, and brush. We have been doing controlled fires in effort to do just that."*

*"The kids have gone back to school for the 2025-26 school year! We are so appreciative of Acellus Academy and the education Emily and Brody are getting with them."*

*"Emily started 10 grade and is taking all the core classes, along with ASL and PE. Brody started 8 grade and, in addition to his core classes, is taking two high school electives- PE and Principles of Agriculture."*

*"Emily is also learning to sew. Kristi has been teaching her how to make some super cute things!"*

*"Brody had some bad news this month. A disease made its way through the chicken coop."*

*"This month Lee ended up in the dentist chair with an emergency visit."*

## Howell Ferguson Changes at CMPS

Admittedly, I never fully understood the "British" school level system adopted by Tanzania's educational system. Nevertheless, more changes are coming. Here's a summary I found on the internet: *"Tanzania is currently transitioning from a seven-year primary education cycle to a six-year cycle, meaning that Standard 7, which previously marked the end of primary education and led to secondary school entry, is no longer part of the system. The new primary education structure is 1+6 years (1 year of Kindergarten plus 6 years of Primary Education), followed by lower secondary and advanced secondary education."*

This change, however, does not affect the emphasis at the Chimala Mission Primary School to teach the Bible to its students. Just recently, Venance Mwanjelile informed me that 33 of their older students obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ! I wish I had the space to list each of these children's names and where they are from. Suffice it to say, they are literally from all over the country of Tanzania. This speaks volumes to the effect our schools are having on the Tanzanian people. Most of these



children will be experiencing this new education restructuring, and their flexibility will see them through successfully. But our continual prayers are that these children will remember their new spiritual beginning and develop it through continually feeding from God's word. We ask that you also join us in prayer that they will remain faithful by connecting with a local church family that will love and encourage them.

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*Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!*

**Howell Ferguson**

## **CMH Insights**

The Chimala Mission Hospital has a proud history of more than 60 years as one of the first—if not the very first—“bush” hospitals personally endorsed by Tanganyika’s first president, Julius M. Nyerere. Yet, that legacy alone cannot sustain the hospital in the face of declining patient numbers. For this reason, we are exploring options to preserve the hospital as a benevolent and evangelistic arm of the mission for the Chimala community, while also easing the need for repeated appeals to our supporters. We still want to provide opportunities for targeted support, but our greater goal is for the hospital to return to its self-sustaining roots.

We were very grateful that Mark and Michele Teske were able to bring their administrative and medical expertise for a few days. They carefully assessed not only the hospital’s financial condition but also its systems and procedures. Their insights and recommendations were both timely and valuable. While more work remains, we believe their visit has given us a clearer path forward that will lead to meaningful improvements.

In addition to the Teskes, we invited Dr. Stephen Langeni, owner of the Maranatha Hospital in Mbeya and a member of the Lord’s church at the Forest Church of Christ in Mbeya, to visit CMH. Dr. Stephen and three of his colleagues met with us and toured our facilities. Their observations and advice will provide valuable guidance as we seek sustainable solutions for the hospital.



***New Maranatha Hospital construction located on the old Mbeya regional airport property.***



***Dr. Stephen Langeni, third person from the left, giving our group a tour of his new construction.***

On our final day before returning to the U.S., we visited the Maranatha Hospital in Mbeya. We were impressed by both the wide range of services offered—dental, vision, pharmaceuticals, and more—and the large number of patients they serve. Their optometry department even provides on-site, custom-made lenses. In fact, Menard Swila’s daughter recently received an eye exam, a prescription, and new glasses in one hour. Remarkable!

Before we left, Dr. Stephen showed us his latest hospital construction project. To say we were impressed would be an understatement. His new facility will have over 500 beds, including many private and semi-private rooms, as well as full lodging for patients and their families. I have not seen that level of service even in the U.S. In short, we are hopeful that Dr. Stephen’s influence, experience, and the success of his Maranatha hospitals and pharmacies will serve as a strong ally to the Chimala Mission Hospital moving forward.



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**Howell Ferguson**

**A Great Place to Learn**

This year, Chimala Mission Primary School and Herring Christian Secondary School are blessed with a total enrollment of more than 620 students! Educating this many children is both a joy and a challenge—especially when it comes to keeping up with their needs and making sure they are well-fed. Some of our students are “boarding students,” which means they live on campus full time. They receive all their meals, a bed, around-the-clock supervision, and, of course, a quality education right here on campus. Others are “day students,” who enjoy a mid-morning chai meal and their classes before returning home to their families each evening.

We truly believe Chimala Mission offers one of the most beautiful learning settings in the region. Surrounded by mountains and trees, our campus provides a setting where children can grow, learn, and thrive in a Christ-centered environment.



*Frolah Mdingile serving fried potatoes and mandazi to primary school children during chai break time.*