



# The CHALLENGE of Africa

JULY 2026 | VOL 8 NO 7

## 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 Great Work Worth Sustaining

Maintaining a mission work the size and scope of the Chimala Mission is no small undertaking. It is a work composed of many interdependent parts—not merely the buildings and more than 700 acres that comprise the mission property, but the people whose lives are touched there every day. At any given time during the week, nearly 1,000 individuals are working, studying, receiving care, or making their home on the mission grounds.

Our primary and secondary schools educate children from five years of age through their late teens. The Chimala School of Preaching serves students ranging from young adults to senior citizens. The hospital depends upon the faithful service of doctors, nurses, specialists, technicians, and support staff. Teachers, administrators, craftsmen, office workers, farmers, maintenance personnel, and many others each contribute to the daily



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Howell Ferguson

## Buying Two Boran Bulls

Boran cattle are a highly regarded Zebu beef breed native to eastern Africa. Mature Kenyan Boran bulls typically weigh between 1,200 and 1,875 lbs.

Brad Bell, a recently retired cattle rancher from Lamesa, Texas, visited Chimala Mission during June and July with his wife, Tanya. Lord willing, they plan to join the Chimala missionary team full-time in 2027. During their visit, Brad accompanied Ezekiel Mwambogolo to evaluate bulls at a nearby Boran breeding ranch. His years of ranching experience provided valuable insight as Chimala strengthens its cattle program. Improving the quality of the herd is an important step toward helping the mission become increasingly self-sustaining.



Howell Ferguson

## A Great Work...(cont)

work of the mission. Together, they form a remarkable community united by a common purpose.

In many respects, Chimala Mission functions much like a small Tanzanian village. Though surrounded by the challenges of poverty, bureaucracy, corruption, and limited infrastructure, it remains a place where the gospel continues to bear abundant fruit. Lives are being changed, children are being educated, the sick are being cared for, and men are being prepared to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. These realities remind us that God's work has never depended upon ideal circumstances, but upon faithful servants.

We often assume that sufficient funding removes most obstacles from a worthwhile work. Experience has taught us otherwise. Financial support is indispensable, but it cannot eliminate every difficulty encountered in a developing nation. Among the mission efforts supported by churches of Christ, few require the measure of oversight, manpower, patience, and sustained financial commitment demanded by the work at Chimala.

For this reason, I respectfully appeal to our great brotherhood to prayerfully re-examine its present support of this historic mission effort. For more than seven decades, faithful Christians have labored together to establish a work that has brought hope to countless souls while ministering to the physical needs of thousands. It would be a tragedy to allow such a work to diminish for want of the resources necessary to sustain it.

The apostle John expressed God's concern for the whole person when he wrote to the beloved Gaius, "*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers*" (3 John 2). Those inspired words continue to reflect the spirit of the Chimala Mission.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of mission work in the developing world is the constant necessity of ministering to human need. Those who view evangelism and benevolence as competing interests have seldom witnessed the realities of daily life in places such as Tanzania. While the gospel is God's power unto salvation, it has always been accompanied by genuine compassion. Our Lord preached the kingdom of God, but He also fed the hungry, healed the sick, and showed mercy to the afflicted. His example teaches us that caring for suffering humanity does not distract from the preaching of the gospel—it adorns it.

The work at Chimala has never been merely about buildings, budgets, or programs. It is about bringing the hope of Christ to people created in the image of God. Every patient treated, every child educated, every preacher trained, and every soul reached bears witness to what faithful Christians can accomplish when they labor together. As long as there are souls to be saved and lives to be blessed, the work at Chimala remains worthy of our prayers, our encouragement, and our generous support. May God continue to bless this good work for generations yet to come.

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**Howell Ferguson**

## **Summer Seminars**

Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed that His disciples would be protected and sanctified, and that all believers would be unified so the world would believe that God had sent His Son into the world (John 17:1–26). In that same prayer, Jesus gave the condition upon which that prayer could be answered: *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me **through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**"* (John 17:20-21, emphasis added).

Nearly two thousand years later, Christians around the world continue striving to fulfill Jesus' prayer for unity. The condition for that unity has never changed: it must be grounded in God's word. That conviction remains at the heart of every department of the Chimala Mission, where the Bible is recognized as God's complete standard for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As people come to know and apply His word, they experience the abundant life Christ promised, both now and in the life to come (cf. 1 Tim. 4:8; John 10:10).

One of the most encouraging ways this commitment is demonstrated each year is through the Chimala Mission's summer Bible campaigns. Christians travel from across Tanzania, setting aside the routines of daily life to spend an entire week studying Scripture, strengthening their faith, and encouraging one another. Ladies, young people, preachers, and men



***Young Tanzanians gather in front of mission church building for the annual youth seminar at Chimala.***

all gather with a common purpose—to grow in biblical knowledge and in the practical application of God's word.

The reports I have received from this year's seminars indicate that 126 ladies, 150 young people, and 63 preachers participated in these week-long studies. In addition, as mentioned in previous newsletters, a Ladies Teaching Training Camp was conducted by Kristi Ferguson, Jessica Stafford and other Christian women from Moshi. Tanya Bell, Beth Joseph, and Brooke Smith, who were visiting Chimala, also taught during the training camp.

While these attendance figures are encouraging, they represent something far more significant than numbers. Each person who returns home better equipped in God's word has the opportunity to strengthen a family, encourage a congregation, and influence a community. Through these annual Bible campaigns, Jesus' prayer that believers would be united through His word continues to be lived out across Tanzania.

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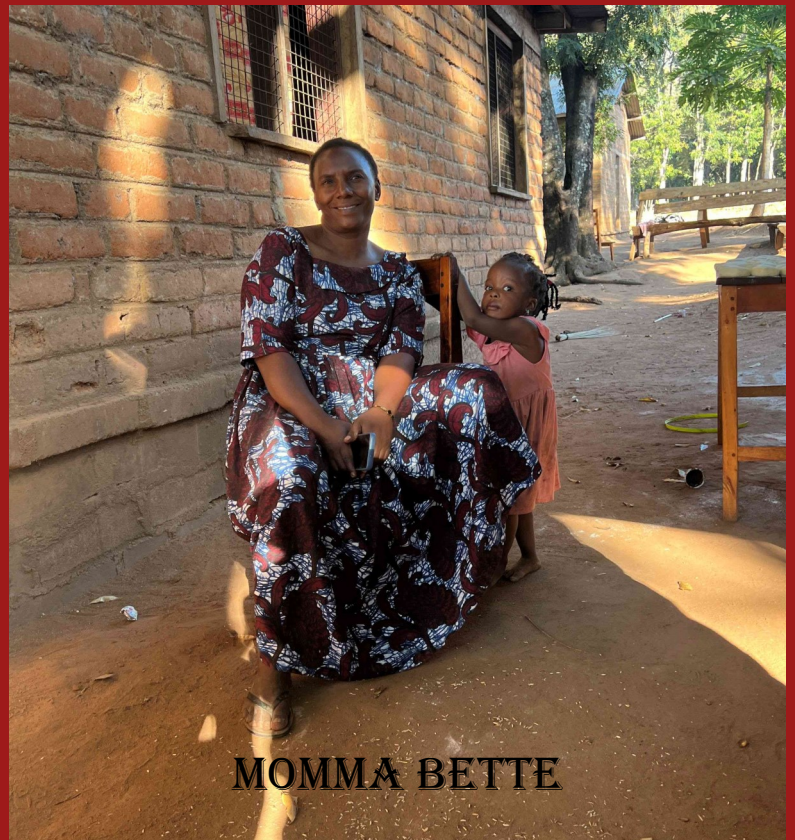


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**Howell Ferguson  
Ministry of Hospitality**

Preparing meals for a team of missionaries and American visitors totaling more than 15 people is no small undertaking, especially when every meal is made from scratch. With the faithful assistance of Jane Kasiba, Momma Bette oversees the planning, shopping, and preparation of meals for the Americans, many of whom stay at Chimala for two weeks to a month (not counting the full-time missionaries). It is a demanding responsibility, but she carries it out with cheerful dedication and a smile that reflects both her sense of humor and love for serving others.



**MOMMA BETTE**