



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!

howellferguson@gmail.com

Also you may call or text me at (731) 267-4935.

A WORK OVERSEEN BY



3740 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109
(334) 272-2561
www.dalraida.org



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The Date Is Swiftly Approaching

It is not an understatement to say that the year of 2020 has not gone the way we all imagined it would go. Following our trip to Tanzania earlier in January and February, Mary and I had plans for a very busy rest of the year including another visit to Chimala during their summer of campaigns, seminars and visitors. I had already contacted several supporting churches about planning to visit to give presentations about Chimala's efforts.

In 2019 with the help of Bill and Cyndi Stinson, we tried to visit as many supporting churches as possible even though we knew there were still many churches we would not meet that year. So we were really thrilled at the thoughts of finally meeting so many of you this year. But then COVID-19 threw a huge road-block into our plans. Not only has it hindered me from reporting to existing churches, it has also slowed down fundraising and encouraging new congregations to join us.

And then there is another critical area that has been affected: Nathan and Kristi Ferguson's fundraising efforts. As you already know, they have committed themselves to Chimala for at least 3 years with plans to depart in January 2021. Initially when they started down the fundraising trail, they had ample time to visit churches to raise support. However, with the shutdown of our country AND our churches, appointments have been difficult to attain. And while they have still been somewhat successful in spite of the situation, they still have a long way to go to meet their goal.

Nonetheless walking the pathway of faith, they are still determined to go regardless. And I have committed myself to help them succeed. After all, Mary and I are Nathan's parents! They are walking down nearly the same pathway we walked in when we moved our family of five to Arusha in 2000. So we more than most people understand their excitement as well as the obstacles they are facing.

In their behalf, can you please help them reach their monthly support goal? Churches are nearing the time of year to evaluate and set new budgets for 2021. Elders, would you please consider looking into how you might fit Nathan, Kristi, Eden and Emmy into your budgets? If you would like to know more about how you can help them, please contact Nathan or me directly for details. My information can be found in this newsletter. Nathan's information is:



Nathan Ferguson
nathan.kferguson@gmail.com
(731) 394-8986

Even with the constraints of the pandemic, some churches are still allowing us to visit. If you feel comfortable enough with procedures set in place in your congregation with masks or social distancing, I am more than willing to come your way to follow whatever guidelines you have in place. My prayers are with you as we struggle together to rise above and overcome what COVID-19 has tried to do to hinder and hurt the work of the Lord's church. God bless!

Mary Ferguson
On The Road Again

Howell and I are more than elated to finally being back to visiting churches and updating them on the Chimala Mission. We were able to make a few wonderful visits over the last several months, but we had not been able to visit in Texas where most of the supporting churches are. As you know, our work involves the enjoyable part of worshipping with brethren in various parts of the states and in Tanzania.

Even with the strange circumstances right now with masks on faces, without being able to see what a person's face looks like, without shaking a lot of hands, and with very few hugs, our recent trip to Texas was so encouraging and enjoyable. (I think we are all recognizing the importance of a warm smile!) We were able to visit several churches. And each and every congregation that we met with couldn't have been any friendlier to us. Even those not regularly supporting this particular work had heard of the Chimala Mission and appreciate it.

There are congregations from across the United States who love and encourage the mission. We appreciate each and every one and only wish it were possible to see each one of you right now. We will do our best as the months progress.

Doing this type of work, we have the opportunity to see how some churches seem to be doing. Small churches and large churches are trying so hard to carefully get things back to as normal as possible. Many have opened up on Sunday nights, and some even have on Wednesday nights offering classes.

People are recognizing that we definitely have our work cut out for us spiritually
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Learn more online @ www.chimalamission.com

Frank Mwashikumbulu
Evangelism House to House

CSOP director, Frank Mwashikumbulu writes the following report:
"We are greeting You all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. This weekend we visited three congregations which they asked us to go, as follows : Brother Lai and Remy, they went at Nganga Church of Christ with 10 students. There is gospel public meeting prepared by the Churches which is going on. Work which they did there are: going house to house, visiting houses of Christians, singing songs together, praying with them, supplying Bible lessons, tracts and Sunday worship. Results of the work: they succeeded to visit 29 and learned together. Bible lessons supplied are 72, and tracts supplied are 450. No baptisms but three promised to be baptized. Second group went at Inyala Iyawayaya. Teachers overseeing this activity are Alphonse Mwam-pogolo, Boaz Kasiba with 7 students. Work which they did are: they went house to house supplying Bible lessons and tracts, visiting houses of Christians and Sunday worship. Results of the work: two restorations, no baptism, four promised to be baptized, 9 people wanted to learn more. Tracts supplied were 700, Bible lessons supplied were 64, attendance on Sunday 48. We had two baptisms; one at Isitu Church of Christ and One at Chimala mission."



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Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

Howell Ferguson

“For You Do Not Know What A Day May Bring Forth”

All of us have experienced what I call “landmarks” that directly or indirectly influenced our life’s direction. Having preached for churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky; there would be an event in the late 90’s that would completely alter my family’s future. While on a door-knocking campaign in 1980, I met a gracious Christian man named Charles Scott of Monteagle, TN. Charles’ demeanor of spiritual joy and optimism was downright contagious. When he preached the gospel, it made you wonder why anybody in their rightful minds wouldn’t want to experience the same joy of Christian bliss.

Furthermore, Charles was a missionary to India and in his publication would regularly urge preachers to travel with him on five-week campaigns with the high probability of successfully converting dozens of Indians and even a few denominational preachers. Extremely appealing as this was to me, I called Charles for more information who in-turn agreed to visit the church where I preached and speak to us about the India work. Subsequently Mary and I discussed it further; and since we had always been interested in mission work, I decided to go with Charles to India to see what working in overseas missions was like. Unfortunately, Charles was unable to go back to India due to Hindu politics; however, he put me in touch with two men, Hershel Bearden and Royce Fredrick from Lufkin, TX.



Howell, Hershel and Royce - New Delhi, India 1997

To make a long story short, I made two trips with those men to India—in 1997 and 1998. To be completely honest, both of those trips were hard on me especially the second one when I became very sick. And while I would end up working in missions mostly on the continent of Africa for the next 20+ years, it was those two men—Hershel and Royce who made my first “taste” of mission work possible which has never since left me.



Howell and Hershel - Lufkin, TX 2020

On a recent trip to Texas while visiting churches I had an opportunity to renew my acquaintance with Hershel. It had been over 20 years since we had seen each other. While the years have had their effect on both of us, Hershel is still just as in-love with the India brethren as he always has been. Sadly for the same reason Charles was unable to return to India, Hershel likewise can no longer return. And his sweet wife, Patty passed away a few years ago from cancer. However, Hershel still makes trips to Nepal and Sri Lanka on occasions. Near the end of our short visit, Hershel told Mary and me, “I’m not going to quit living. I love to travel, and as long as I can make these trips I want to keep teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ to the people in that part of the world.”

None of us know what our future holds on this earth. Hopefully some of you reading this newsletter will one day consider overseas mission work. Maybe Chimala? You might find out very quickly it’s not for you. Or in spite of the “experience” you may have good-or-bad, you may have just established a “landmark” that could forever shape the course of your life. Paul was accustomed to thinking in a similar way when he spoke of opened doors while facing adversities (cf. 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3). That’s why if you look for opportunities you shouldn’t act surprised if God sets one before you. Pray about it, but don’t be afraid to at least try. You might just be starting a new chapter in your spiritual life!



**DALRAIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHIMALA MISSION**
3740 ATLANTA HIGHWAY
MONTGOMERY, AL 36109
(334) 272-2561
chimalamission@gmail.com

Stateside Coordinator:
HOWELL FERGUSON
howellferguson@gmail.com
(731) 267-4935
www.chimalamission.com

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speaking. While many Christians have become strengthened because of staying busy checking on others, continuing their personal Bible study times, and taking advantage of the many on-line Bible lessons, others it seems are discouraged and weak. And many have shifted back and forth feeling strong one day and weak the next! This is life, and these are definitely trying times. We also see the opportunities to reach those who are struggling who are not members of the church. The main thing is to remain faithful. I think most of us are trying to encourage, help, and pray as we know to.

Take heart, know that God loves you immensely, and that He will never leave you or forsake you. Thank you very much for your prayers, love, and support of the Chimala Mission. And may God bless you all and keep you in His care.



One of several church locations visited on a recent trip to Texas.