

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

# THE FERGUSON FAMILY

SHARING OUR WORK IN CHIMALA, TANZANIA



The Forest (Mbeya) Congregation

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## APRIL

WRITTEN BY NATHAN FERGUSON

Another month has drawn to a close, and April gifted the mission and our family numerous stories and adventures. As is typical with mission work here in Chimala, we've been incredibly blessed and fortunate in countless ways.

One of those ways is the chance to collaborate with so many remarkable individuals - it remains a profound blessing. Leveraging the diverse talents of various people to address the mission's daily challenges is a significant part of our work, creating both humility and fulfillment in everyone who contributes, even if it is in a small capacity.

As each department within the mission progresses in its own unique way, it serves as a daily reminder of God's ability to work through the world's many facets. It also highlights our comprehensive and complete relationship that we have with Him - encompassing every aspect of our lives. Regardless of our jobs, roles, where we live, or where we come from, we all serve the one, true Creator. Therefore, we should each feel the immense blessing of calling Him our Father.



# TRAVELS

WRITTEN BY NATHAN FERGUSON

Throughout the year, a key aspect of our mission work involves visiting numerous congregations across the country. While Tanzania has many congregations, we like to try to dedicate a few months annually to specifically visit some of our close sister congregations nearby Chimala and in some of the surrounding areas.

During April, we made it our aim to visit congregations that were either ones we had not visited before or where it had been a long time since our last visit.

While revisiting familiar congregations is always enriching and beneficial, there's a unique joy in creating new relationships with fellow brothers and sisters. We already knew many of these individuals personally but had never had the chance to worship with them in their home congregations. Building these connections is invaluable, not only for our personal relationships but especially for the spiritual bonds we can make and sustain together.



Visiting the Uyole congregation

At the start of the month, we made our first visit to the Uyole congregation. **Uyole** is a "suburb" of Mbeya town, about an hour and a half from Chimala. We knew several of the brothers there from past seminars and interactions, and it was a lovely Sunday to meet the rest of the congregation and share God's word with them.

The following Sunday, Ezekiel and I traveled to the nearby town of **Igurusi** to visit their congregation. The Igurusi church has faced challenges, particularly regarding their building and property ownership. Just last year, they lost a legal battle with a neighboring landowner who claimed the property based on "historical ownership." Consequently, they have relocated to a nearby building and continue to worship in town. We visited their new space, enjoyed fellowship, and discussed future plans.

Finally, we also visited the **Forest** congregation in Mbeya town. This is an established congregation in the heart of Mbeya. As one of the larger congregations in the area, we know many of the wonderful members there and enjoyed a great Sunday morning together. Our focus during this visit was sharing ideas on leadership and faithfulness.

We thank God for the opportunity to connect with and visit each of these congregations.



Easter Sunday



# HAMSINI NA SABA

WRITTEN BY NATHAN FERGUSON

While it might seem minor, there's been significant recent work on the main road to Ailsa Farm. As you know, we often call this road "Hamsini na saba," which directly translates "fifty-seven," referring to the fifty-seven hairpin turns leading up the mountain.

For as long as missionaries have been here, this road has been treacherous and difficult to travel. Over the past few years, some minor improvements have made it easier, but it remained challenging. Smooth dirt and rain turn the road into a mess just after only a few weeks.

In the past few weeks, however, more work has been done on the lower section of the road, making the initial part much easier to navigate. We are very grateful for the local government's assistance in this area. Traveling this road multiple times a week can be exhausting, and coming home sore is normal. Thankfully, this much-needed good news is a welcome relief!

## CONCLUSION

As May draws to a close, we once again pause to reflect on the many blessings and experiences that have enriched our mission and community here. True to our life in Chimala, we have been incredibly fortunate in countless aspects of our work. It is a never-ending adventure—one we could only have imagined in our wildest dreams. Thankfully, and through God's will, we are able to live it each and every day.

As we head into the summer months, I'd like to ask for a special prayer regarding our upcoming seminars and campaigns, which are fast approaching. Much planning and preparation is required by both CSOP and the various workers and hosts involved to ensure everything goes smoothly. Although the seminars won't begin until June, we ask each of you to begin praying now for the success of these efforts.

Additionally, as May continues, we want to gently remind everyone that we are in the midst of preparing for our upcoming furlough later this year. We are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to reconnect with supporting churches, family, and friends during that time. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are continuing to seek those who may be willing to assist with various travel expenses. Flights to and from the U.S., along with transportation and lodging as we travel throughout the country, will add up to a significant cost. We've always been blessed in the past to receive what was needed, and we trust the Lord will provide again this year.

For these matters and so many more, your continued prayers are deeply needed and sincerely appreciated.

As always, may God continue to bless you, your families, and your congregations.

Nathan, Kristi, Eden, Emmy, Rowan & Ava

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