

Chimala Mission, Hospital and School

Randy's Gray's Report

July 2010

This has been a very busy year in many ways, but especially in the number of visitors. We think we have set a record for the number of visitors who have come to work at the Chimala Mission in 2010 and the year is not over yet!

New York Avenue congregation had a group who spent over two weeks at Chimala in July. You can read more details about what they did in Bill Stinson's report. I want to say a personal thanks to each team member who used their vacation time from work, left family members and other responsibilities behind, and/or made different sacrifices to be able to go to Chimala. I also want to say a big thank you to so many members of the NYA congregation who supported the team's efforts to raise money and donated items for the group to use in teaching Bible classes to the children.

There are two visitors going to Chimala in the next month who are making first time visits to Chimala. Both are making this trip to explore the possibilities of making long-term commitments to work at the mission.

Charlene Franklin is a public school teacher who retired from the

Edmond School System in Oklahoma. She is considering working in the Chimala Primary School and the Jerry Herring Christian Secondary School. Charlene has experience in training teachers and has worked with students who learn in different ways, especially students who may need additional assistance to learn. In the country of Tanzania, all subjects in the secondary schools are taught only in English. This has proven to be very challenging for teachers and students. Charlene's experience has uniquely prepared her to develop our teachers and tutor students in English. The main purpose of her trip is to determine in which areas she could possibly contribute to extending the excellence of the schools on the mission.

The second visitor traveling to Chimala is Don Logsdon from Butler, Illinois. Don has a very strong background in farming and raising livestock. The Chimala Mission owns Ailsa Farm located in the mountains behind the estate. Ailsa Farm is 375 acres at an elevation of about 7,000 feet above sea level. When it was developed and being cultivated, the farm was very productive. Through the years,

less and less attention was given to the farm to the point that no crops have been produced in many years. It is the intention of the Chimala Mission to reactivate the farm and provide food for the children in our schools and the workers on the estate. Don's background makes him an excellent candidate to implement this much-needed project. Based on his findings on the trip, he and his wife, Susan, will make a decision about working with the mission long term.

What is also very special about the two individuals traveling to Chimala this August and September is that they are spending their OWN PERSONAL FUNDS to make this trip. They agreed to make the trip to ensure that they can benefit the mission and are a good fit for the work to be done. The elders at New York Avenue Church of Christ feel blessed to have loving, committed Christians considering making a commitment to work with the mission. As always, the Chimala Mission asks for your continuous prayers for the efforts to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in southwest Tanzania.

Another servant for Christ,
Randy

Garry Hill's Report

We have finished teaching at Chimala for the summer. The first quarter's work was both challenging and rewarding. The young men in class were eager students which made it enjoyable teaching them. We are looking forward to getting back for the upcoming quarter and teaching through the rest of the school year.

Coming back to Georgia we spoke at various congregations about the great work at Chimala. As the pattern of the New Testament shows those who do mission work are to report which inspires more work. "And when they arrived and gathered the church together they declared all that God had done with them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles" Acts 14:27.

At present we are in the country of Israel. We excavate every summer at Tell Beth Shemish. This site, a few miles west of Jerusalem is mentioned in 1 Samuel 6. It is the place the Ark of the Covenant was returned to after the Philistines captured it. The city was at different periods of history a Israelite, Canaanite and Philistine settlement. It has richly rewarded the Bible student with numerous finds which show the Scriptures are accurate and trustworthy. It is this kind of study and research that I incorporate in to my classes at Chimala. On staff my responsibilities included keeping records and teaching about the pottery finds. We have a group of students from Faulkner, Harding and Freed-Hardeman. Teaching and working with them in the "Land of the Bible" is a privilege and joy. We are looking forward to sharing that with the students at the Chimala Bible College this fall.

Bill Stinson's Report

Habari Za Leo (News of the Day),

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I hope that this letter finds everyone doing well. We are doing well and have enjoyed having all of the visitors so far this winter (yes it is winter here). Most mornings here during July start off in the low 50's and it will warm up to the low 80's in the shade. I emphasize in the shade, because when you are in the sun this close to the equator, it is very hot any time of the year.

The New York Ave. Group from our home congregation in Arlington TX arrived on July 4th. There were 17 in this group. Two of them were from other congregations, one from Caddo Mills and one from Florida. They were a great group who worked for the mission, school and churches. There were many volunteers that helped paint the hospital, greatly improving the looks. Others worked at the hospital and in the HIV clinic. Also, several taught Vacation Bible School at the primary school as well as at several congregations. Other volunteer projects included: cleaning storerooms, making curtains for the hospital

and dorms, and cleanup around the construction of the secondary school. In addition, many taught lessons at our leadership seminar, while others worked on our phone lines, and helped collect school fees.

We also had 7 students from Ireland arrive on July 9th. Six of them are medical students and 1 was a teacher. The medical students have been very involved in helping at the hospital and the young lady that was a teacher really worked hard at the school.

The New York Avenue group left on July 22nd. That same day, we had four more special guests from my hometown arrive. They are all from Pleasant Ridge Church of Christ and are participating in the Let's Start Talking program. This is the second year in a row that they have visited here. One member of this group is my brother, Eddie, who made his third trip here in four years. The group had an organizational meeting the first day of arrival and completely filled their schedule. Actually, they extended their schedule to help accommodate some of their readers. I understand they are very busy, and I am hearing reports that there are those already expressing interest in baptism.

We have now had 41 visitors to the mission this winter. By all accounts, this has been the busiest year in the history of Chimala Mission as far as guest coming and going. But, we are not finished; there are still several more that are scheduled to come and go between now and the end of September.

There has been a lot going on at the mission besides all of the guest coming and going. The construction of the Dining Hall/ Multipurpose building at the Secondary School has continued at a good pace. It is about 80% complete now with the exterior basically finished. They are plastering the interior walls and the electrical and plumbing are almost complete except the trim out. The Tanzania government has decided that they are going to recognize the mission for two different items when the Freedom Torch comes through on August 24th. They want to recognize us for our conservation of our environment and recognize us for the construction of the Dining Hall. I designed it with 60' clear span trusses. The building is 60' x 100' without any interior supports and they cannot believe it. I had one of the District head officials come by a couple of weeks ago and he said "it is a miracle".

All of the schools reopened in July and the Herring Christian Secondary School is now at capacity. We also had the dedication ceremony for the school while the NYA group was here and it was a great day. Carolyn Herring was here and personally thanked the administrators and teachers for their dedication in teaching the students to do their best to score with high marks. The schools are rated one of the best in Tanzania.

We also had the Leadership Seminar. It was well received and we had over a hundred men and women attend. There were many good questions asked and I can tell that there is interest by many in trying to take the church here to the next level of maturity and get the

leadership that the scriptures call for. I had some great help from the NYA group with Robert Medina, Brandon Kaag, and Jennifer Gray helping teach lessons. There was also request for us to have more seminars dealing with this subject. They asked for us to have some in different parts of the country where more people can attend. We are hoping to have some next year in the Kyela/Mbozi area and in Dar es Salaam.

The WBS/Gospel Chariot campaigns also got started this month. We have had a good 2 months for evangelism. I have not gotten a final count for July, but I know that we are at close to 60 baptisms for June and July together. Joseph told me that the last campaign in Mbozi went very well. We have also started a new work these last couple of months in a new area. It is in the Njombe area in a village called Mtwango. There seems to be great interest there and it is where we will end up our campaigns next week.

Cyndi and I are getting closer to the end of our tour for this year with a little less than 2 months left before we return back to the states. We will be home for the last 3 months of the year helping take care of Cyndi's parents. We will still be in constant contact with this side helping manage the work via email and phone. I have been preparing the Tanzanians to take more responsibility ever since we arrived 3 ½ years ago. This will be the first real test to see how well they can do. While we are home, as usual we will be traveling and making presentations. If you would like to hear more about the work that continues to go on here and the ways you or your congregation can be involved in helping this great work, please get in contact with Cyndi and me.

In His Service,
Bill and Cyndi Stinson

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