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Chimala Mission, Hospital, and Schools

February 2012



From the Coordinator

February ended up being another busy month where we spent the first eight days in Tanzania and the rest of the month in the states. We started the month traveling back to Chimala after being in Dar es Salaam the last couple of days of January. We had taken Jan Tate and Seth Ferguson in to fly home and get the mission's government registration work completed. After spending 3 days in the car we decided that we had enough traveling in the car. We both were hurting after riding 10-12 hours a day (I guess we are getting a little old or something). All of this led us to try out flying from Mbeya to Dar in the small plane. Charlene Franklin made the trip with us and all of us came to the conclusion that it was definitely an "interesting" experience. I want to tell you a funny story about what happened. When we boarded the plane they gave us a little bag that contained a small bottle of water, a small bag of chips, and a small cookie. We had only been flying for about 15 minutes when I heard a very loud bang. I thought that the plane made the noise and could not figure out where it came from, but the pilot did not seem concerned. In about 10 minutes, it happened again. Still no concern from the pilot (we were sitting directly behind the pilot, so I could see everything he was doing). In a few minutes the explosion happened right next to me, in Cyndi's lap. Her potato chip bag had exploded and she had chips everywhere. Now the pilot comes on the intercom and ask everyone to puncture their chip bag. He said that scared the pilot. We thought it was funny that he did not say anything until it happened right behind him.



The highpoint of our time in Chimala turned out to take place the last weekend that we were there. I was asked to be one of the speakers at a seminar at the Mabadaga congregation. They asked me to speak on Church Leadership. Garry Hill and Howell Ferguson also spoke. Mary Ferguson and Upendo taught the children outside while we were teaching inside the building. The attendance was really good and you could tell the people were really interested in what was being taught. After all of the lessons, we had a meal that had been prepared by the ladies of the congregation. Then we all went back into the building for a question and answer period. I guess what impressed us most was the quality and sincerity of the questions.

Another high point came in some really good news about the secondary school. All secondary schools are required to take a standardized test at the end of the year for their second year and fourth year students. This was our first time to take this test and the results were outstanding. The school was number one in our district, number five in the region, and number thirteen in the Southern Zone (398 schools). We were also number one and two respectively in accounting and bookkeeping. It has already brought a lot of attention to the school and makes our school more desirable to attend. In the end it gives us more opportunity to teach the gospel to more young people who will one day be leaders in Tanzania.

When we got back we were planning to ship the container within about eight days after our arrival, but that did not happen. It looks like it will happen sometime during the first two weeks of March. We have made good use of the extra time to secure some more supplies that we saw were needed. We have also been busy getting everything organized and ready to ship. Please keep Chimala in your prayers. Bill and Cyndi

Garry Hill's Report

Off Map Centers

We had a busy last couple of weeks at the Chimala Bible Institute. After implementing our new evangelism program last weekend, four teams lead by Howell Ferguson, Remmy Joseph and Joseph Haonga and myself, went out in the area churches with our whole student body. Joseph went to Chang'ombe with six student and they had a seminar on church growth. One was baptized because of their efforts. Howell went out to Chimala A with 6 students, his wife Mary. Upendo, Mary's translator and Menard Swila. Howell did a powerful series on discipleship. Preaching three different times he reported the outside yard was filled with children in class and the inside was packed in the stifling heat. The church was so encouraged that they asked Howell and his team to continue the series during the week. Howell received a chicken from one of the members for his efforts. Remmy Joseph went with 5 students to Isitu. He was helped by one of the outstanding workers on the mission, Hamisi. Remmy preached a series of lessons on stewardship. They have asked the team back this Sunday for more classes and evangelistic work. Mary Ferguson and her outstanding translator Upendo have even been asked to return and do a series for the ladies also which begins also this Sunday.



Garry Hill Preaching at local a Congregation

I traveled with Ezekiel and 6 students to Chosi A where one of our instructors, Lai preaches. We had a series of lessons on the "Fruits of the Spirit". The student then stayed the rest of the day having Bible studies with some wayward members. Because of their efforts three souls were restored to Christ. After speaking there Sunday evening one of the members made the request that our team return this Sunday. Since this is all part of the training of our students one of the students will teach the Bible class and as requested. I will preach on "How to Do Evangelism" at the morning worship hour. Then the students will stay all day and conduct the evening worship service while Ezekiel and I will travel to Uturo and preach. Speaking of Ezekiel, after his Secondary School Bible class this past week, he had a student that wanted to obey his Lord in baptism. Peter Kamatula has been conducting services there every Lord's day and having Bible classes during the week. Peter is starting this week to spend Thursday through Sunday in Mbeya conducting classes for the Christians there and will be taking a few of our students every weekend with him for future training.

Boaz has been doing an outstanding job working with the Christians up on the mountain. He is taking three students with him this weekend with one of our students who is from there. We are planning in the near future having one of our teams hold a seminar there. One of our students William Tembo wrote this note this week describing their activities in his own words. "We had house to house preaching. The result, we had three restorations of brethren. (two were brothers and one sister). "The church members were very much pleased because of the cordial relationship between CBI students and Chosi A congregation. In general the community members were also glad for the generosity and good will of students for having evangelism in off map centers."

Garry Hill's Report Continued

Classes are winding down for the quarter. We finished Jeremiah this week and Monday are reviewing for the final in Genesis. Howell has reported his finishing the book of Job and getting ready to finish Acts this week. We have put up five new maps of the Bible lands in the Swahili-Chapel room. Boaz has all of his students finding the places where God's great activities happened. Remmy Joseph reports that he is finally getting through Proverbs while Menard is finishing up "Survey of the New Testament". Peter's English classes are bearing fruit with the students better able to do research and Joshua's classes in Homiletics have the students doing an excellent job in learning to preach. Joshua evaluates the students after every chapel sermon and the students have all improved in their abilities to Proclaim the Word.

We had a faculty meeting in which we are all working on various task to improve the school. Task like creating a more comprehensive entrance exam, plans for more recruiting of students in the larger cities of Tanzania and better care and organization in the library were discussed. Howell gave us all a pep talk in keeping at the task at hand in the meeting. He emphasized that we are all to be constantly about the task of training the leaders of the church for the future of East Africa in which we all heartily agreed

Yes, it is hot here now, the afternoon classes are sweltering and we have had no rain. The students are finishing up sermons, papers, memorizing verses and studying their notes for finals this next week. On top of that they are going out on the weekend teaching, holding Bible studies and directing services. We as teachers are finalizing our lectures, preparing finals, grading papers and preaching on Wednesday and every Lord's day...Please keep of all in mind and in your prayers as we work, worship, learn and serve in "Off the Map Centers" like here at the Chimala Bible Institute.

Garry L. Hill

Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver Extension Coordinator

Don & Susan's News

Don and Susan have now finished their work in Cambodia. I hope to have an article from Susan in next month's issue telling more about work on the medical mission boat that serves so many people in that area. They are currently taking some time to see some of their family. One of their sons is stationed in Hawaii, so they have stopped over there for a few days to visit with them before returning back to the mainland. They need to prepare their taxes for 2011. Don sold out all of his farming equipment and land before going to Chimala, so he has a more complicated return to do this year. He decided he probably needed to be here to be sure everything gets done correctly. They plan to be back in Chimala by the time the container arrives.

A Second Container Shipment Planned

I mentioned last month that we do plan to start preparing a second container for shipment almost immediately after the first one leaves during first week of March. We plan to be in Paragould, AR on the 1st of April to pick up Chad and Rena's goods that they want to ship to Chimala. In the meantime we will be preparing about 800 boxes of supplies that have been gathered from so many of you that collect supplies for Chimala.

We still need to raise some funds to insure that we can send these very needed items. The cost of shipping the last container ended being nearly \$12,000. I still have some money left from what we collected for it, but we need at least \$5,000 more to have enough for this second container.

Thanks for your continued support for Chimala Mission Hospital and Schools.
Bill and Cyndi