



# The CHALLENGE of Africa

SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOL 6 NO 9

## 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](mailto:howellferguson@gmail.com)

(731) 267-4935

Howell Ferguson

A WORK OVERSEEN BY  
 **DALRAIDA**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

PO Box 3085  
3740 Atlanta Highway  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
(334) 272-2561  
[www.dalraida.org](http://www.dalraida.org)



## This Issue

- Help Make the Hard Easier **P.1**
- Sowing For Goodness' Sake **P.2**
- All Together Now **P.2**
- Bus Accident Claims 13 **P.3**
- Chapel at CMH **P.4**

## Howell Ferguson *Help Make the Hard Easier*

Recent events and changes have led me to postpone highlighting the various departments of the Chimala Mission. The October newsletter will be the next issue to resume our focus on departments starting back with the Chimala School of Preaching and the outcome of the recent summer campaigns and seminars.

For the past few months, the Chimala Mission Hospital has been struggling to maintain itself financially due to a number of reasons. Without reiterating all of the reasons (much of which is financial); new clinics are popping-up all around Chimala offering everything from dispensing medicines to free or reduced-price maternity services. Even though people are gradually discovering that these "free" services are frequently lacking in quality care or competence; the word "free" is alluring. Many will probably return to CMH, but this growing trend of government clinics continues to affect our patient numbers. And from the more important spiritual perspective, that means less people will have an opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When Mary and I arrived at the Chimala Mission on the 18th of August, we knew the challenges we would face as we learned in more detail of the hospital's dilemmas. While we have been pushing hard to reduce the pharmaceutical debt from one company, a new debt was arising from another pharmaceutical distributor. You simply cannot operate a hospital without medicines and supplies. "Non-essential" staff have already been removed; however, the Tanzania government requires a certain number of medical staff based upon our hospital bed capacity.

I have made several recent pleas in behalf of the hospital and highlighted some of their needs. More recently, our Butterfly Ultrasound probe which has been an incredibly useful medical instrument is nonfunctioning and unrepairable. A new one will cost us around \$3,000; but the time to get it to Chimala causes those who need it now to either suffer without it, or have to find the money to travel to a distant hospital. That sounds easy to us. But remember, this is Tanzania. Everything is harder here. Yes, the people have an uncanny ability to take it in stride; but pain is pain, no matter who you are. Open to page three to read of the emergency event from a recent bus accident near Chimala Mission. It not only hurt witnessing these people's pain; it also hurt writing about it. This is a time you can step up and help people in need.

Howell Ferguson

## Sowing For Goodness' Sake

Without getting too political, as a Christian I am very aware of the severe consequences potentially affecting our upcoming presidential election if the outcome goes towards Marxism and communism. In my mission efforts in different countries, I have seen what these political systems can do to them.

The country of Tanzania is far past that point. Socialism has been severely crippling this country since its formation in the early 1960s. And that's where many nations—including the USA—are heading. Yet even still, America has a certain resiliency, Lord-willing, that likely will outlast whatever incompetence or even intentional damage politicians may inflict.

In contrast, we continue to be a blessed and prosperous people even in times of economic recession, depression and inflation. My point is that our nation—even at its worst—is still far superior financially than any country on the face of this Earth. Viewing ourselves introspectively, we may easily think we are having a tough time. Things cost more, the dollar is worth less. Don't get me wrong. I am not supporting the Marxist idea of a forced redistribution of wealth. To the contrary; that's nothing but governmental stealing. I am simply asking us to take the biblical view of voluntary contributions to help those in need (cf. 2 Corinthians chapters 8, 9).

Albert Barnes gives this insightful comment concerning the giving of the Corinthians: *"By their skill, their health, their diligence, or by providential arrangements, they are eminently successful. Others are feeble, or sick, or aged, or destitute of skill, and are less successful. All that is obtained is by the arrangement of God. The health, the strength, the skill, the wisdom by which we are enabled to obtain it, are all his gift. That which is thus honestly obtained,*

[continued on bottom of next column]

Howell Ferguson

## All Together Now

Due to various colds and sicknesses, I was unable to get a missionary picture last month. However, when we arrived to Chimala in August, we found everyone in good health and good spirits. So we got a group picture after the Sunday morning AM worship which you can view below. Lee, Tara, Emily and Brody Wright are making the necessary adjustments of living in Chimala. Lee is improving on his skills of driving on the left side of the road from the right seat of the truck with the gear shift at the left-hand. Sounds confusing, but it can be mastered with a little time, practice and patience. We are extremely happy to have the Wrights working as part of the Chimala Mission team!



[from previous column]

*therefore, should be regarded as his bounty, and we should esteem it a privilege daily to impart to others less favored and less successful."*

Carefully monitored giving to mission works is an excellent way to wisely fulfill God's New Testament benevolence requirement. A good brother in Christ recently said, *"I thought I knew what poverty was until I visited Tanzania."* Visit the Chimala Mission Hospital, the Chimala School of Preaching, the Chimala Mission Primary School or the Herring Christian Secondary School—and imagine being a student or patient in one of these good works—and you will quickly learn where hard-earned dollars can have a significant impact for immediate and long-term good.

Remember, *"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness"* (2 Cor. 9:10). Giving for the sake of receiving is not the teaching of this passage. The teaching is from the age old principle of sowing and reaping. Sowing is necessary in order to sow and reap again over-and-over again reaping the good fruit of righteousness. Sow for goodness sake!

Donate With  
**PayPal**

Set up a custom donation sent automatically to Chimala Mission each month through PayPal

[www.chimalamission.com/donate](http://www.chimalamission.com/donate)



**Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!**

*Howell Ferguson*

## **Bus Accident Claims 13**

The siren sounds of our ambulance making multiple round-trips with the injured and dying could be heard all throughout the evening and next morning. During the afternoon there was a horrendous bus accident just a few miles west of the mission. Sadly, most of the victims arrived from the crash scene to the hospital like cattle from inside the back of a large truck. Lying on the floor of the mortuary were the lifeless bodies of two women and one man while another deceased victim was wheeled in on a stretcher. There were bodies still remaining at the scene of the bus crash making a total of ten known fatalities.

We were asked to bring one of the Land Cruisers with a 12,000-pound winch to help move the bus as there were still several people trapped inside. Remember, there is no 911, no AAA, no highly-trained fast-response paramedics or medevac services. By then, the sun had set making it difficult to see through the tangled bushes and thorns at the



bottom of the ravine where the bus lie straddled across a small stream. There was no way the powerful little Land Cruiser was going to budge a 12 ton bus uphill. It was not easy, but we had no choice but to leave. There was already a lot of large trucks backed-up on the narrow two-lane highway, and lots of on-lookers, “helpers” and mourners—some wailing the deaths of loved ones still trapped on the bus. Later on, after we returned to the mission, we learned they had discovered another victim trapped inside the bus yet still alive. They were using an electric grinder trying to cut open the wreckage to free the bodies.

Back at the hospital, all of the wards were full with doctors and nurses rushing about tending to dozens of injured people—some very seriously. They were doing all they could under the chaos and with the sheer numbers of victims. Family members were allowed in some of the wards, while others waited inside the courtyard or outside the hospital. Wailing came from across the hospital’s side entrance at the morgue and lasted from that night even until late the next morning. It is not a pleasant thing to hear. I later learned there were a total of 13 fatalities. Some of the more severely injured victims were transported this morning to the Mbeya Referral Hospital where more specialized care could be administered.

Whenever appropriate, we try to have a presence at the hospital in support not only of the victims’ families but also for our hospital staff. The sad part is that religious missionaries often feel helpless to offer any real assistance since we have no medical training. Over-and-over-again, I see the great need for better/newer equipment, qualified staff, and better management. Unreliable electricity, underpaid staff, broken or old equipment impact the sick, injured and dying the most. Once again, we continually see the great need for American doctors and nurses even on a temporary basis.

Yes, it’s a complicated situation. In Tanzania, American doctors and nurses typically attract the local people who want quality health services—as we all do. But it’s nearly impossible to recruit such doctors and nurses who are faithful Christians. First of all, most doctors and other health professionals have large numbers of clients who look to them for regular healthcare. Those who are young are trying to pay-off their medical school tuition and can’t see themselves living on a missionary salary. And many older or retired doctors are unable to travel to or stay in a place like Chimala due to age-related issues, illnesses or inconvenience.

A third-world hospital like CMH is not an easy place to work or experience. But for the 129,905 people it serves, CMH regularly stands between life and death. **Doctors, nurses—we need you!**





**DALRAIDA CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHIMALA MISSION  
PO BOX 3085  
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](http://www.chimalamission.com)

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 456  
Montgomery, AL

**MEMORIAL | HONOR | BIRTHDAY | ANNIVERSARY**

You can give a gift of any size to Chimala Mission to **honor** someone special or **in memory** of a loved one who passed from this life. Your gift will help the poor and help continue the preaching of the gospel to many that have never heard the truth.

*(This form is provided for your convenience)*

I would like to make a gift in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send a copy of gift acknowledgment to:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to: **Chimala Mission***

✓	Designate My Gift Toward	Amount
	Evangelism	
	Radio Program	
	CSOP Student Support	
	Bibles	
	Farm Program	
	Hospital	
	Chimala Mission Primary School	
	Herring Christian Secondary School	
	Missionary Support—Howell Ferguson	
	Missionary Support—Nathan Ferguson	
	Missionary Support—Lee Wright	
	Preachers' Kids School Fees	
	Estate	
	Where Needed	



**GO DIGITAL...Help Chimala Mission Save Money!**

Subscribe online to our newsletter and you will save Chimala Mission postage and printing costs! That money can be used for other things in Tanzania and help more people.

Please subscribe online at [www.chimalamission.com/get-updates](http://www.chimalamission.com/get-updates) and let us know if we can remove your name from our snail-mail list.

**Howell Ferguson  
Chapel at CMH**

Daily morning chapel at the Chimala Mission Hospital is an opportunity for patient families, visitors, doctors, nurses, hospital staff—all workers, not requiring their immediate presence, to take a few minutes to recognize the blessings and wisdom contained in God's word. Songs of praise and prayer are made to God each morning. For some at the hospital, this may be the only time they will ever hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Pictured above is Lee Wright offering insight, comfort and exhortation from God's word. The overseers of the Chimala Mission believe this is an indispensable part of assisting not only the healing of the body, but more importantly, the healing of the immortal soul.