



The CHALLENGE of Africa

JANUARY 2025 | VOL 7 NO 1

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.

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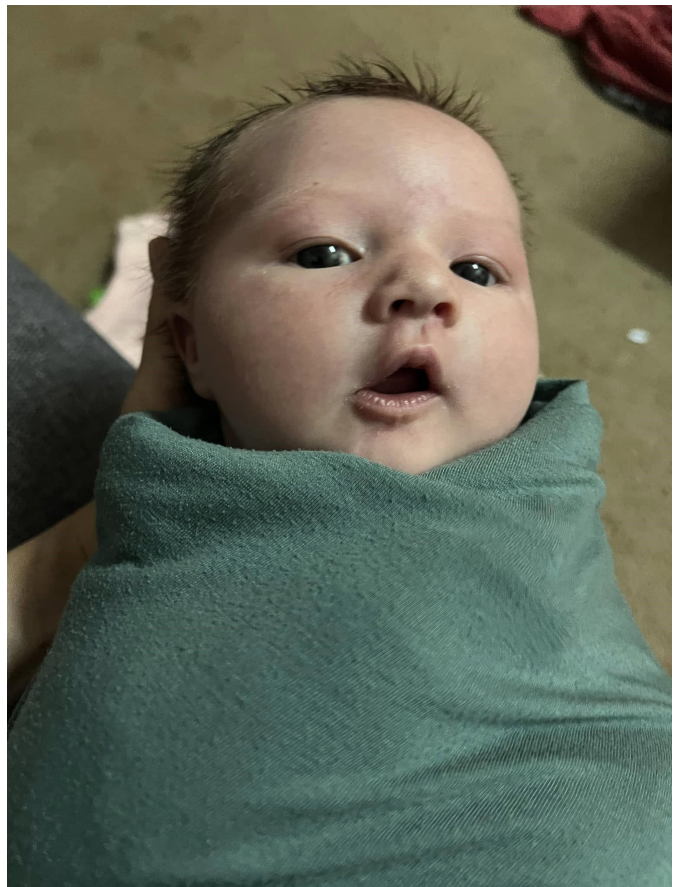
New Missionary - Ava Jane Ferguson

The arrival of the New Year stirs feelings of hope, ambition, curiosity, and mystery, with a hint of the surreal. In this sense, 2025 will be no different, though it will reveal itself in a unique way to each individual.

New in 2025 for the Chimala Mission will be the addition of another family member for Nathan, Kristi, Eden, Emmy and Rowan Ferguson. **Ava Jane Ferguson** was born December 18th at 10:25 pm at Chimala, Tanzania in East Africa. She weighed 8 lbs., 3oz and was 19 3/4" long. Momma and baby are both doing fine. And big sisters and brother have welcomed Ava with welcome arms offering lots of help for Mom & Dad!

There's been a few interesting thoughts, statements and circumstances surrounding the birth of Ava. The first one I thought of was, this is the first Ferguson born on the African continent--to my knowledge. But Ava is definitely an American citizen--that is, once all the proper paperwork is filed with the US Embassy in Dar-es-salaam. Another interesting statement I heard relates to Ava's middle name, Jane and the "Jane" of Tarzan. One more curiosity was that instead of being born in a hospital, Ava was born inside a house, reminiscent of the "old days" when doctors made house calls including delivering babies.

And so, 2025 begins a new chapter not only in the history of the Chimala Mission but also in Nathan and Kristi's family. As always, and especially now, we ask that you please keep all of them in your prayers.



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Howell Ferguson

Do You Need A Visit?

As all of us know, these past few years have seen a dramatic increase in prices: groceries, utilities, gasoline & diesel, construction materials, housing prices, etc. We all can tell our own personal stories of how we have had to make financial adjustments. The same is true with operating the Chimala Mission.

As stateside coordinator, there are decisions that I have to make with each monthly draw request from the mission. And one of the true balancing acts is deciding how much travel funds I use to give church reports as opposed to how much money is sent to the mission to fund it's many departments. And that doesn't even count special projects, repairs or improvements that are in constant need.

Lord willing, if costs begin to come down--especially fuel prices--hopefully more churches can be scheduled and visited to get updated reports. That means if your congregation hasn't received a report in a while, **PLEASE LET ME KNOW** or ask your church elders to **CONTACT ME** so I can schedule a time to visit.

Our travel dates back to Chimala are January 22 - February 27. Once we return home, however, I will be available to begin scheduling reports. I always try to be as accommodating to churches' schedules as possible. And for the sake of efficiency, I try to schedule a second "nearby" church to give a report to if I'm traveling a long distance. ***I hope to hear from you!***

Howell Ferguson

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Howell Ferguson

Getting Back Home

Please keep Lee, Tara, Emily and Brody Wright in your prayers as they make their way back "home" to Chimala after dealing with stateside family deaths and sicknesses. Lee lost a close cousin, and Tara's father has been battling lung cancer for quite a while.

Reluctantly, they returned to the States a number of weeks ago. Tara has been struggling with the decision whether to remain with her father during these last difficult days or return to Chimala leaving the dire fate of her father in the hands of God. While neither choice is an easy one, pulling away from their dream of giving themselves to the Chimala Mission effort has set them back more than they expected or wanted.

As this is the busiest holiday season of the year for flying, Lee has attempted to rebook their return flight but with great difficulty because of the higher priced flight tickets. But if all goes well, their latest plan is to leave the US on the 31st of December. Again, please pray for the Wrights during this difficult and emotional tug-of-war in their lives.

Howell Ferguson

Rebuilt Ailsa House

The history of the Chimala Mission would be incomplete without the mentioning of what is known as the Ailsa farm up 3,000 more feet behind the primary mission property. Once a flourishing mission of the Lord's church, its present value serves as a farm to promote the dream of creating a self-sustaining mission work. As the farm develops, the need for reliable and more permanent workers is increasing. Naturally, therefore, more housing is needed. In the picture below, one of the many existing ruins on the property has just been rebuilt in preparation of new tenants. The house has just been wired and is awaiting a small solar system to provide electricity.



A small three room house - formerly believed to be an old German store.

Help Chimala Mission use our financial support more wisely!

Howell Ferguson

Thank You Susana

Many thanks goes to Susana Driedger who delivered Ava at the Chimala Mission. Susana is a licensed international nurse midwife from Ontario, Canada who currently makes her residence in Mexico. Kristi learned on the internet about the midwife services that Susana offered to expecting missionary mothers around the world. After many on-line conversations and feeling comfortable with the services offered, an agreement was reached on a time frame that Susana would make temporary residence at the Chimala Mission, living at the "Jones" house in anticipation of Kristi's delivery.

In conversations I've had with Nathan and Kristi, it was a win-win for everyone. Nathan and Kristi would save thousands of dollars forgoing the enormous costs of an American hospital, doctors, and services as well as avoid the stress and rigor of traveling over 9,000 miles with 3 young children (Rowan is only 3) for more than 24 hours. And Susana would delight in living on a beautiful mission estate cost-free as well as enjoy the company of Nathan's whole family in addition to the wonderful and friendly people of the Chimala Mission.

Furthermore, with the flying restrictions for expecting mothers, Nathan and family would have had to return several months before Kristi's due date causing them to lose all that time of work away from Chimala.

While there were several other factors; overall, we are very pleased how things turned out. Mima and Babu can't wait to return to meet out newest grandchild as well as to see everyone else!

Lord willing, we will depart the US on the 22nd of January and arrive at the mission on the 24th. Not only do we have a lot of catching-up to do, there will be matters that need attended to.





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Howell Ferguson

"New Light Tailors"

Since his days as a student at Chimala Bible College, I have always known CSOP instructor, Remmy Mfaume as an innovative man always searching for ways to spread the gospel of Christ and develop Christians. His passion for service, with the help of others, has created a sewing (tailoring) class of students to help Christians in small struggling churches.

His creativity in beginning the "New Light Tailors" is an example of Remmy's desire to empower others. These students learn a trade of sewing while they are enrolled in Bible studies. What an example to all of us of simply looking at what we have right before our very eyes.

