



# The CHALLENGE of Africa

FEBRUARY 2025 | VOL 7 NO 2

## 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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Howell Ferguson

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## Howell Ferguson Back at Chimala in 2025

The contents of this month's *Challenge* newsletter brings both encouragement and sadness. Happiness as we are able to return to Chimala to rejoin Nathan, Kristi, Eden, Emmy and Rowan, and to meet our new granddaughter, Ava for the first time. But also sadness by the loss of a precious lady, Carolyn Herring. Even within the Chimala Mission family, we hear news of happiness with new births, weddings, graduations and successes. And we hear news of sadness from deaths, sicknesses, accidents and *shida* (trouble) of different kinds.

Just a few weeks ago, a reckless motorcyclist collided with our own Boaz Kasiba while he was riding his motorcycle fracturing one of his legs. Furthermore, Lee and Tara Wright have been dealing with a couple of concerns. First, Tara's father continues to struggle with cancer. And Lee has developed severe pain in his right arm which may be a pinched nerve or a spider bite. The doctors and hospitals which have seen him have not come up with anything conclusive. Please keep all of these in your prayers.

However since our arrival, Mary and I have been enjoying the "noise" of Nathan and Kristi's household additions with grandchildren growing, exploring and maturing in their wonderful world we know as the Chimala Mission. Right alongside them, we are happy that Lee and Tara's children, Emily and Brody spend time together with Eden, Emmy and Rowan, while Ava is not quite ready to play yet!

At this point in our trip, we have been able to visit two congregations; the mission church and a church just east of Chimala called Mlangali. I will have more to say about this good church and their current project in next month's newsletter. It is truly wonderful to be back at Chimala.

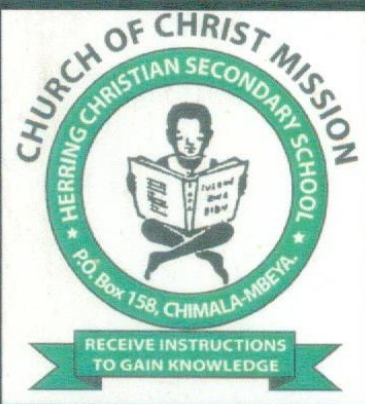


Just a few more weeks on crutches for Boaz.



Jerry Herring

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DEDICATION  
JULY 19TH  
2010

## Carolyn Herring September 18, 1939—January 5, 2025



Our hearts are saddened at the passing of long-time Chimala Mission friend and secretary, Carolyn Herring. "Mimi" as she was affectionally known, passed away January 5, 2025 in Arlington, TX at the age of 85. She was born in McLeod, Texas on September 18, 1939.

Carolyn graduated from Talco High School and attended Abilene Christian College for 4 years. She married Jerry Herring on July 2, 1960. Carolyn worked as Office Manager for the family businesses, Lawn Doctor Inc. and Herring's Christmas Trees until her Husband's death in 2002. She was a 50-year member of New York Avenue Church of Christ and had a passion

for supporting Chimala Mission, Hospital and Herring Secondary School where she served as secretary for 20+ years.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years Jerry Herring, her parents Robert and Ruby Lewis, and brother in law, Dr. Mickey Via.

Carolyn is survived by daughter, Cindy Stene (Tim) of Ft. Worth; their daughters, Brandy Crow (Michael) and sons, Cade and Cason; Calley Christensen (Hunter); and Shay Stene. Son, Jeff Herring of Arlington and his Children, Hunter (Camryn) and their Daughter, Paisley; and Daughter, Payton. Son, Jay Herring (Angie) of Mansfield and their Children, Ava and Andrew. Carolyn is also survived by her brother, Charles Lewis (Norma) of Searcy, Arkansas and Sister, Martha Via of Denton. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, please make contributions payable to: Chimala Mission and in the memo field designate funds for Herring Secondary School. Please mail checks to Cindy Stene at 5209 Windstone Dr. Ft. Worth, TX 76244.

The funeral for Carolyn was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at New York Avenue Church of Christ, 5371 New York Ave, Arlington, TX 76018 with former missionary, Heath Stapleton officiating. Carolyn was laid to rest at Moore Funeral Home & Memorial Gardens, 1219 N Davis Dr, Arlington, TX 76012.

Note from Howell Ferguson: *Most of you will remember that Carolyn's late husband, Jerry Herring was a former elder of the New York Avenue Church of Christ and a visionary for the eventual establishment of the Herring Christian Secondary School at Chimala in honor of the Herring family. After the passing of her beloved Jerry, Carolyn's unwavering love for the Lord's church and the children of Tanzania continued with her service as stateside secretary for the Chimala Mission.*

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Howell Ferguson

## The Risk of Caring

Those of you familiar with the history of the Chimala Mission know how deeply the hospital is woven into the fabric of the mission's success and the expansion of the Lord's church in Tanzania. From its early days in the 1960s, the hospital has been an anchor in the community, and despite ongoing struggles, it has remained a vital resource. Although challenges persist, there is hope—and with your support, we can continue to overcome them.

While the hospital has faced difficulties since its inception, the situation today is more urgent than ever. The rising costs of supplies and increasing government regulations present new obstacles, but they also offer an incredible opportunity for us to come together in support of this mission. While every contribution is beneficial and greatly appreciated regardless of the amount; the hospital needs significant financial help, and together, we can make a lasting impact.

It's easy to turn our focus to other areas of the mission, but we cannot ignore the reality facing the hospital. Its future depends on us—on our willingness to act. Without sufficient funding, we risk losing something that has been a beacon of hope and health for thousands of people. Yet, I want to be clear: we are not without hope. We have always risen to the challenge, and with your continued dedication, we will do so again.

Let me share a few of the most pressing needs:

1. **Protection for Sensitive Equipment:** The hospital's equipment is at risk due to unreliable electrical supply. It is a foregone conclusion that poor quality of electricity in Tanzania has been the main source of equipment failure over the years. A 60 KVA stabilizer is needed to protect the entire facility. This will safeguard everything, from the crucial X-ray machine to the daily operations that rely on clean power. Additionally, 20 new solar batteries are required to ensure a steady energy supply, along with a 100 KVA diesel generator to ensure the hospital's critical operations during power outages.
2. **Critical Repairs and Replacements:** The hospital's washing machines have burned out due to electrical issues, and two water pumps crucial for the purification system need replaced. In addition, the poor power source has damaged or severely reduced the effectiveness of the larger x-ray machines, and damaged the battery charger of the portable GE x-ray. The Butterfly ultrasound has also stopped working due to extensive use.
3. **Anesthesia Machine Update:** The anesthesia machine in the major operating theater has issues and recent inspections have found leaks. The same inspector called it "taka taka"—trash. This is a call to action for us to bring the hospital into the 21st century with modern, reliable equipment.

The total cost for these urgent needs is estimated at \$100,000.

Some may wonder, "Why not just close the hospital?" This thought has crossed my mind as well. But consider the countless lives saved in the hospital's 60+ years of service. Tens of thousands of people have received life-saving care here. Tanzania's first president, Julius Nyerere, once said at the dedication ceremony of the Chimala Mission Hospital, "Americans are hard-working people, and we in Tanzania must try to follow their example" (*Fort Worth Star Telegram*, Dec. 28, 1965). Nyerere's endorsement gave churches of Christ an open door to share the gospel, plant churches, and help the people of Tanzania grow in faith.

The hospital has not only been a center for health, but it has also kept the mission in good standing with the Tanzanian government. Closing the hospital would have far-reaching consequences—not only for the Christian community but also for the nearly 100 employees who rely on it for their livelihood. And in a country with strong employee labor laws, this could cost the mission far more than we are willing to lose.

Now is the time for us to act, to stand together, and to invest in the future of the Chimala Mission Hospital. Your support can make all the difference. With your help, we can ensure that this vital institution continues to save lives and provide hope to thousands in Tanzania. Let's not let this opportunity slip away—let's rise to the challenge, as we have in the past, and make a lasting impact that will carry the mission forward for years to come. The risk of caring far surpasses the consequences of accepting defeat. Will you help?



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**Howell Ferguson**

**Smalling Family Quick Visit**

It's always nice to have visitors to the Chimala Mission, especially those who have a long-established Chimala history. Standing in the middle in the picture below is Cindy Smalling, daughter of former Chimala missionaries, Wayne and Flo Smalling. Behind her is the house her parents built in her early childhood years when lions and leopards were common visitors. The sad part is that Mary and I were in Mbeya and missed a chance to meet and ask them so many questions about the early mission days. On Cindy's right is her brother Mark's wife, Miriam; and to Cindy's left is her childhood missionary friend, Mim. Please come again!



*Miriam Smalling, Cindy Smalling, Mim Monson in front of the Smalling house.*