

**New York Avenue Church of Christ**  
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# Chimala Mission, Hospital, and School

May 2009



*Greetings from Randy Gray; Stateside Coordinator*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On May 11, I returned home from working on the Chimala Mission for 75 days. The time at Chimala was truly a life-changing experience because I came to appreciate in new ways the Christians in Tanzania, at the New York Avenue congregation, and in my family.

Chris Raynor and I visited a different congregation each Sunday. At first, we preached wherever we visited. Then, based on the advice of the elders at New York Avenue, I began listening, instead of preaching, so I could evaluate the preaching being done by our Tanzanian brethren. I was encouraged by what I heard. The local preachers were doing an outstanding job in presenting the Word of God. Congregations are becoming more mature as seen in that they are visiting the sick and spiritually weak, planting churches in villages without the church, and sending teams to smaller congregations for encouragement and training. The churches of Christ there face obstacles similar to those faced by local congregations in the US. People are converted and added to the church. But sometimes, almost as fast, members are failing away from their faith. None of the churches have elders at this time, so all members must be involved in working together.

Anyone who makes this type of trip will tell you that he or she could not have done it alone. God gives courage and strength beyond our human abilities and also provides the love and encouragement of people we love. The support of the local congregation and family were keys to my being in Chimala.

The New York Avenue congregation was unbelievable, releasing me from my elder responsibilities so I could focus totally on the work at Chimala Mission while I was there. This support included individuals who taught my two Bible classes, elders who shepherded the NYA family, those who continued working in the Chimala warehouse, and of course, Carolyn Herring in the Chimala Office. The members encouraged me by reminding me that they were praying for me.

My family was supportive as well, starting with Jennifer handling loose ends at home in addition to her own work responsibilities. Our son, Erik and his wife Krissy and our daughter Jenny were very understanding and encouraged me as well. This support made it a little easier for me, especially when I knew I was missing seeing them coach their baseball and track teams (Erik and Krissy) and receive a Bible award at Oklahoma Christian University (Jenny).

Your continued support of Chimala through prayer and gifts is having results as souls are being

saved, Christians are growing in their faith, and service is being done to the glory of God. A special need that we have right now is for money to ship a container to the mission. We have not done this for several years and were hopeful that we had found a way to ship a container with support of the government. The government-facilitated way of shipping a container will take much longer than what we first thought. In the meantime, we are raising money to ship the most critically needed supplies to the schools, hospital, and missionaries. Can you help? If so, please note on your donation that the money is for the shipping fund. Thank you for your continued love and support.

In His service,  
Randy Gray

### ***Bill and Cyndi Stinson's Report***

Habari za leo!!! We hope everyone is doing well. We arrived back at the mission the last week of April as planned. We spent about a week and a half here working with Randy, going over everything that transpired while we were gone. Believe me, in 7 weeks a lot goes on here. We spent hours going over everything with Randy trying to be sure that we were up to speed in all things before he left. Of course we could not catch everything, but I guess that is what they make email for. We are very thankful for Randy coming over here and for the work that Chris and Tam did for us while we were gone. Since we have returned we have been very busy on two fronts; first with getting the well work back in full swing and second preparing for all of the guest that started arriving in May.

We are in the process of constructing the well house at this time. It will contain all of the electrical equipment for the well. On the other end of the building, we are building a room for a second generator. This generator will be a backup power system for the well and will also provide backup power for our school system. The school has never had power when the national power system is down, which can be quite often. We are also preparing to lay water lines and construct additional water storage. I hope by the end of the winter (your summer), we will have a working water system that will have clean safe water.

We had three separate groups of guest arrive on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It was not originally planned that way, but because of the airlines making some changes to their flight schedules, everybody's arrival date wound up being on the 19<sup>th</sup>. In some ways that worked well because we were able to bring everyone back together. Each group leaves on a separate day, but that is OK. The first group to leave was made up of three couples from Texas. They were here doing a survey of our work along with two other works. They have started a work in Uganda and wanted to see our work because of similarities. In this group was Judy Caskey Tarver. Judy is the daughter of Guy Caskey, one of the original missionaries to the Chimala area. Judy lived here as a child in the late 50's and early 60's. We really enjoyed getting to hear some of her stories about what it was like here in those beginning years of the work. We also have a group of nine here from Harding University who are working at our hospital. In this group there are seven nursing students, Dr. Dean Paulsen who is making his third trip here and of course, Janice Bingham who has made many trips here and lived here full time for over 5 years. It is always a great blessing when this group comes to the mission to help provide better medical care for the people of this area.

The third party consisted of two people. One is Garry Hill who is teaching at our Bible College.

The other is a young lady who is attending medical school in the States. She is working alongside the Harding group at the hospital. They will be here until the first week of June.

We have done some work on school construction since we have returned, but probably will not go full blast until the first week of June. I have to draw a new set of plans for the next building. The original plans seemed to have been lost. The building had been started before I came, but no one seems to know what happened to the plans.

June and July are the big evangelism months here as we start our summer campaigns. I am sure Chris will be writing about this, so I will not spend much time on this other than to say it is always an exciting time around here. I guess I better sign off for now. We pray that things continue to go well for all of you and we ask that you do the same for us.

In His Service,  
Bill and Cyndi Stinson

### ***Chris and Tam Raynor's Report***

Hello from Chimala!

The month of May is behind us and here is June, already. The Bible Cup this year was small in attendance but we had a good time and the people that came enjoyed themselves. The teachers of C.S.O.P all helped out and took turns in reading the questions to the contestants.

We also had the preachers' seminar in May. I was in Dar picking up some guests during the seminar, so I wasn't here to participate. Joseph, the head teacher of CSOP, took charge of the seminar. He told me that the seminar was a great success this year. They had time for questions and answers at the end of each day. The questions were different than normal this year. One night they had questions that Bill and I had to answer, so we had a "tele-conference" over the phone with them. I was in Milkumi. We heard the question over the phone from Joseph and we answered it and Joseph told the preachers the answer. I believe this was the first time this ever happened.

Bill and I are splitting up the responsibilities of travelling into Dar and picking up the guests this year. Tam and I have already made two trips to Dar and we'll be going in again the first week in July. This last trip we made we took three days of R & R in Dar and had an enjoyable time relaxing by the Indian Ocean and shopping. We are enjoying our guests very much this year. We have a great group of students from Harding University's nursing school, and we have a second-year medical student from Alabama and a Bear Valley teacher, Garry Hill. Garry is from Georgia and this is his second trip here. He is an archaeologist as well as a teacher and is working on his PhD in archaeology. He's a fascinating person to talk to about archaeology, and he makes it very interesting. When he leaves here he's going to Israel for a month. His main goal in his field is to prove that the Bible is true.

That's about it for this time. Travelling, guests, preaching, teaching. As always.

Yours in Christ,  
Chris and Tam Raynor  
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