



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 2 No. 9

“Go ye unto all the world”

September 2005

## Chimala Bible College Progress

In Kiswahili, the word “habari” means “news.” I received the following news via e-mail from the Chimala Bible College director, Bernard Kulanga: “*Brother Pat McIntosh arrived here on Friday, Sept 16, 2005. Praise the Lord.*” I have to say I was relieved to receive these words, for Pat was the first CBC short course teacher to make the trip to Chimala alone. Regrettably, there have been those rare occasions when an overseas traveler missed his connection or arrived at an airport with no one awaiting him. I know—I have been one of them. So when I received Bernard’s good news, I knew Pat had made the connection at Dar-es-Salaam with his transportation to Chimala. I appreciate the Chimala missionaries for taking the time and trouble to accommodate our teachers.

Pat is teaching 2 masters level short courses: Advanced Hermeneutics and Old Testament Theology. These courses are being taken by the men who will serve as our teachers in the CBC undergraduate program. Immediately following the end of the two-week courses, the undergraduate program will begin Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> with approximately 15 students. Clint Brown will be teaching Pentateuch I (Genesis & Exodus), and Bernard Kulanga will be teaching English I (language & research).

Following the end of the six-week quarter, I will be traveling on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> to Tanzania accompanied by Josh Barnett. Josh preaches for my sponsoring congregation, the Westside church of Christ in Brownsville, Tennessee. Josh has agreed to teach Personal Evangelism, and I will teach the book of Acts in short courses. This will give the church an opportunity to “send eyes” into a work they support. It will also give me a chance to spend some time with Bernard to help him get settled in as the director of CBC. I want to sit down with him “eyeball-to-eyeball” to set goals for the growth and future of CBC.

Lord willing, next year Mary may travel with me to Tanzania. We will visit Arusha—our former area of work—but spend most of our time in Chimala. Mary

anticipates the reunion with the people she loves and has not seen in over two years. As I am teaching short courses, she will likely teach ladies seminars and children classes—possibly in the primary school.

It is truly an exciting time to witness the birth of a new work of God. The foreign preacher-training extension school concept is really a no-brainer; yet at the same time it takes diligent planning, support, prayer, and God’s blessing to make it a reality. The principle is simple, effective and found in 2 Timothy 2:2. Thank you for helping make this possible. Howell

## Denver Conference

This year has been the second time I have had the privilege of traveling to Denver with my wife, Mary to participate in the BVBID faculty retreat/conference. This is a yearly event designed as a time of fellowship for the Denver staff and the extension staff. Each member of the BVBID team had an opportunity to give a report or presentation about his particular area of work. It was also an opportune time to sit down to do some planning, brainstorming, and pencil-in short course teachers for the extension schools. During our time there I was able to tentatively schedule at least four men to teach short courses in the CBC for 2006.

Additionally, the retreat provides a nice break for our wives as well, allowing them time to get to know each other better. This year they updated and exchanged contact information and discussed ways to communicate and give each other support during times when their husbands are away teaching in the extension schools. Even practical matters as having power-of-attorney to make crucial decisions when the husbands are absent were discussed. Certainly our wives are of great personal concern as well as a crucial part of our work. We could not do this without them.

Likewise, we give our gratitude to the Bear Valley church and her godly elders for providing such a great opportunity for spiritual service. Also, thanks are extended to the sound BVBID faculty and especially its fine director, Denny Petrillo for their willingness to give of their best to God’s dream. Howell

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## Family Stuff

Sometimes in my earnest to relate to you about the emerging developments in the BVBID extension schools, I leave out events in my family's life that some of you may want to know about. So let me begin by saying that there is never a dull moment in a home with three teenagers.

Our daughter Sarah began her college studies at FHU in August and shares a dorm with her cousin Stevy. In addition, she kept her job at Chick-Fil-A and works three evenings a week, coming home for the week-ends since Henderson is only about thirty minutes from our house. Our older son, Seth is a senior at Crockett County High seemingly enjoying the “perks” as a senior classman. He is one of the writers for the school newspaper and is enjoying his second year of tennis. Nathan, now a new freshman, has just begun his climb up the high school ladder. He is the family “tech guy” and stays busy serving as his mom's computer resource person. Mary is now working full-time for a job placement company in Jackson. We have been so fortunate that she has been able to be a “stay-at-home-mom” for the kids up until this year. But raising kids nowadays is extremely expensive, and she is able to assist in our increasing mid-life income demands. If that weren't enough, she is also taking two

on-line courses from Jackson State Community College.

As for me, I continually juggle a number of projects in addition to my work with the BVBID extension program serving as stateside coordinator and academic dean for the Chimala Bible College. Other activities include the work on my Master's degree in Biblical studies from Bear Valley. I just completed a course on Total Communication, and am currently taking the Comprehensive Leadership course. So far, I have completed seven courses. If I choose to do a thesis, I only need to take two more courses to complete the Master's. If I select the no-thesis option, I will need to complete four more classes. The nice thing about this program is with the four Denver “blitz” classes behind me, I can complete the Master's here at home.

When I am not away on foreign assignments, giving presentations, or trying to raise funds, I sometimes have occasions to do fill-in preaching, hold gospel meetings, and teach classes. Having preached regularly for over twenty years, I am always glad to be given these opportunities. More recently, I have been involved in the shipping containers bound for the Ukraine that North Jackson is sending. If circumstances permit, I will be traveling to the Ukraine in November to oversee the distribution. Howell