



Ferguson Report



Vol. 3 No. 8

"Go ye unto all the world"

August 2006

Time to Board Again

During the past weeks I have visited several supporting congregations and reported to them in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. As a general rule, the summer period seems to be a good time to visit congregations. Giving a report using this format has proven to be the most effective and best received method I have used. Supporters are not only able to hear about the work, they can also see the progress taking place in the BVBID foreign extension program and particularly with the Chimala Bible College. As I visit these congregations it is always an encouragement to greet and talk to the members and hear about what is happening in their lives as they serve the Lord.

The next several weeks will prove to be quite challenging in terms of a travel schedule. In the lines to follow I will try to fill you in on some of the activities I will be involved in as I continue to try to keep you abreast of some of the key aspects of this work.

The next travel date I have scheduled is to Denver, August 26-29, for the Third Annual BVBID Retreat. The theme this year is "Purified to Serve Shoulder to Shoulder." This yearly event gives the Bear Valley staff in Denver and the extension staff an opportunity to come together to report on our respective works as well as have a great occasion for worship and fellowship. This year the Bear Valley congregation has honored me with the invitation to preach during the Sunday evening worship service. It is both a humbling and an exciting opportunity to which I am looking forward.

After returning home Tuesday, the 29th, I am outbound again Wednesday, the 30th for Tanzania to teach a course on Church Leadership and to assist the Chimala Bible College students in learning how to do research. I plan to return September 16th. This trip will be a little different from previous trips, first because I am traveling alone and second because I may be taking the "express" train from Dar-es-Salaam to Mbeya. Even though I have not taken the train before, it is significantly less expensive than having someone from

Chimala travel to pick me up, and it is generally safer than taking a bus. Our prayers are that in the near future the planned Mbeya international airport will become a reality thus making this particular leg of the journey safer and quicker. I am excited about meeting our new student at CBC, Alphonse Simion and also learning more about prospective students. The new dorms are basically completed so the space is available. If anyone is willing to sponsor Alphonse, please get in touch with me. He will need \$100 per month. I will try to include a picture and information about him in a future newsletter.

One thing that I need to emphasize about the CBC is that it is still in its "infancy" as a BVBID extension school having only been in existence for less than a year. So the progress we are making may appear to be "baby steps" but that, in my opinion, is healthy and normal. As with all new extension schools, there will always be the need to "fine tune" our efforts as the school settles into its environment. Teachers, administrators, and students are all called upon to adjust as we all grow into new services for the Lord. As new students come, new financial and logistical challenges will arise. And I am always confident God will provide.

Following my return from Tanzania, I will be returning to Denver to take a "blitz" (short) course September 19-22. The topic of this course is "Postmodernism in the Church" and will be taught by William Woodson. I am looking forward not only to studying under such a Bible scholar as brother Woodson, but I am also anticipating learning more about this relevant issue and its impact today upon the Lord's church.

No sooner than I return from Denver, I will begin a gospel meeting at the Cairo church of Christ September 24-26. The Cairo congregation is a fine group of Christians and also a supporter of the BVBID extension program. They are also one of the oldest, if not the oldest congregation in nearby Crockett County with an establishment date going back to the mid 19th century. As always, I am sure we will have a great time together in praise to our Great and Holy God and in a study of His Word.

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Congregation

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OF
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One more major journey I have on my schedule is a trip to the Ukraine. Because of our membership with the North Jackson church of Christ, we have made some wonderful associations and have discovered a congregation that dedicates nearly 50% of its budget to world missions. That's impressive. After careful consideration, they decided nearly two years ago to become financially involved in my work. As with all faithful congregations, I love the elders of North Jackson and appreciate their true desire to serve God and His church to the best of their capacity. One of the elders, Paul Norris, has asked me to travel with him to Krasny Luch, Ukraine October 10-24 to assist in a campaign in that formerly communistic country. Because of my indirect association with the Kramatorsk School of Biblical Studies, a BVBID extension school in Ukraine, and North Jackson's involvement and support of a congregation in Krasny Luch, Paul thought this would be a good opportunity for the both of us. While in Ukraine we will visit the KSBS where Terry Harmon serves as the director and academic dean. This will give Paul an opportunity to learn more about KSBS and its value as a preacher-resource for existing and future works in Ukraine. Following a brief stay at Kramatorsk, we will travel to Krasny Luch where we will meet up with Frances Jones and Robbie Kirby, members of North Jackson,

for an evangelistic campaign. There will be Bible studies during the day, and I will preach each evening. Frances (formerly "Sullivan"), along with other Christians from Jackson, were instrumental in the establishment of this church in 1993.

As always I ask for your prayers not only for me, but for all of the BVBID extension staff and visiting instructors as they travel around the globe teaching and training faithful men to teach others. Despite the fear-mongering and media hype, the world has always been a dangerous place. But God's promises are sure and His love is immeasurable. God will take care of His business; let us be sure we are busy taking care of ours.

Howell



*Chimala School of Preaching
Chimala, Tanzania*