



Ferguson Report



Vol. 6 No. 1

“Go ye unto all the world”

January 2009

Prayer Requests

God’s people have always been blessed through the avenue of prayer. I am sure I’m not alone in saying that we do not pray as often as we should. Jesus taught us how to pray, to pray frequently, and to pray fervently. Even as the Son of God, Jesus continually communed with His Heavenly Father. Surely, we should do no less.

The following names are people associated with the BVBID extension staff or schools that I know would appreciate your prayers. **Rhonda Hamrick**, wife of our extension director—David Hamrick, is recovering from gall bladder surgery. She is doing well but still needs our prayers. **Cindi Stinson**, wife of the Chimala Mission administrator—**Bill Stinson**, is in the states tending to her aged parents. Cindi’s mother in particular has had a series of tests and is waiting for results. Bill has been carrying a lion’s share of responsibilities since he assumed the administration work at Chimala. With Cindi being away, I know it is difficult for him being alone. Please keep Bill, Cindi and her parents in your prayers. Also, remember **Donnie Bates** and **Gary Hill**, the latest additions to our extension staff. Donnie will be working as the extension coordinator for a new school in Honduras, and Gary will be the extension coordinator for a new school in Ghana. These men and the new schools will certainly have future needs. I know all of these folks would appreciate your prayers for their success. I know your prayers will “*avail much!*” Howell

Upcoming Trips

In the month of March, I will be making a trip involving two countries – Tanzania and Ukraine. Denton Landon and I will be leaving March 5th to teach four classes at the Chimala Bible College in Tanzania. I’ll also be bringing with me school and student supplies and funds donated by the Sunday morning ladies’ Bible class at North Jackson, for installing new ceiling fans in one of the classrooms. On the return trip I’ll make a connecting flight from Amsterdam to Kiev, Ukraine and complete the trip by train to Gorlovka for a week. Afterwards I should be returning home the 30th of March.

Let me say something about the Chimala Mission that might be of interest to someone reading this newsletter. If you have ever considered doing overseas mission work, the Chimala Mission would be an ideal place to get your first taste. The mission is located on a picturesque 350 acres situated at the base of the Kipongere Range joined by the Chimala River and the Great North Road. There are fully-equipped missionary houses with a 110-volt American electrical system and generator-backup. The Chimala Hospital provides most medical services and supplies that would ever be needed, giving missionaries an added assurance of safety and health. There is also located on the mission a large building for the meeting of the church, a primary school, a preacher-training school, and the Chimala Bible College. The temperature is moderate year-round with almost daily refreshing rains during the rainy seasons turning the mission into a tropical paradise. There are a number of small churches in the area villages providing plenty of opportunities for preaching and personal evangelism. With the location of the hospital, there are also ample occasions to demonstrate God’s love and care in benevolence. And with the current process of installing internet/email service on the mission, missionary families can stay connected with home.

There are many more things I could say about the Chimala Mission. But I will end by saying there is always the need for new missionary families to help serve the Lord at the Chimala Mission. If you would like to learn more about serving God at Chimala either on a long-term basis or on a campaign visit, just let me know, or contact the New York Ave. Church of Christ, 5371 New York Ave., Arlington, TX 76018, (817) 465-6500. Howell

What Would You Say?

On occasions, I’ve heard discussions about what preachers and missionaries should teach to their audiences both at home and abroad. And I’ve heard every kind of answer from “*Tell them the ‘steps of salvation,’ faith, repentance, confession, and baptism*” to “*Read to them the second chapter of Acts.*” I’ve heard it said, “*Give them an overview of God’s scheme*

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“Ferguson Mission”

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of redemption from Genesis to Revelation.” And others have said, *“Tell them they have two choices: either they’re going to heaven through obedience to Christ or to hell by rejecting Him, and then leave them a copy of the Bible.”* Others would say, *“Just tell them about the love of God and don’t worry about the ‘details’.”*

In other words, if you had only one opportunity to teach – just a one-time occasion, what would you say? The truth is, sometimes that’s exactly the position in which many missionaries and preachers find themselves. Talk about a heavy burden and responsibility – that’s it! In fact, I can think of nothing more serious in nature than that proposition. That is your one-chance to either make a *“hit”* or *“strike-out.”* That may be the one and only ball that is thrown across your plate.

To begin with, I have to believe that there is an element of truth in all of the above suggestions. Although not necessarily in the order as given above, surely enough time should be given on the love of God and the moral condition of man. That love was demonstrated by a promise that began in Eden and was occasionally revisited through the patriarchs, the nation of Israel, God’s prophets, John the Baptist, and ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ the Son of God by His life, death, resurrection, and ascension upon His spiritual throne in Heaven. Life is short, death is certain, eternity is forever. Yes, a personal choice has to be made. Jesus calls upon all people from every

nation, tribe, and language to choose life. He has given a plan simple enough to understand and thorough enough to fulfill God’s demands as He calls us to receive His amazing grace and enter into His family—the church. The result is to receive God’s immutable promises.

And then it might be good to end by saying, *“The story is all in this book,”* and leave them a copy to reaffirm the validity of what you spoke. The responsibility will then be theirs. And then pray that they’ll be noble like the Bereans and *“receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily”* because they don’t want to accept man’s word without the witness of God’s holy word (Acts 17:11).

They must be left with an impression of the importance and authority of the Bible as the final word on spiritual and moral matters. Having done that, I believe I could leave with a clear conscience knowing that I had done all I could under that circumstance (cf. Acts 20:17-27). Hopefully, more opportunities will come. I can’t predict what you might say under that same situation, but these are things I think I would need to say. But remember, it is the gospel that is the *“power of God unto salvation;”* it is God’s word that converts the soul (Rom. 1:16; Psa. 19:7; Matt. 13:23; 1 Pet. 1:22-23). *“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase”* (1 Cor. 3:6). God must be allowed to do His work.