



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 7 No. 1

*“Go ye unto all the world”*

January 2010

## In with the new...2010

You might be able to say that the 2010 year will be a “*transition*” year for my work in the BVBID extension program. The major difference in looking at our plans for 2010 and previous years is the less number of visits we’ll be making. However, the length of time spent in the fewer trips will be quite different.

The first trip Mary and I will make will be three months in Ukraine. Our travel plans are to leave the 4<sup>th</sup> of March and return the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. This will enable us to remain in Ukraine the maximum amount of time without having to get a visa, and will allow us to be there for graduation.

There will be a number of primary objectives (not necessarily in order). First, I’ll be teaching two 1-week short courses. The first course will be on Personal Evangelism, and the second course will be on the book of Job. The second objective will be to teach and implement in a very practical way the lessons on personal evangelism with the Central church which meets in the BVBIU facilities. Some new opportunities have become available for us such as the nearby language institution as well as an invitation to teach ethics and biblical themes at a family community center across the street from BVBIU. **Andrei Zhuralov**, the new Central church preacher, is very excited about the new possibilities becoming available to teach and influence the community for Christ. A third objective will be to study consistently with a private Russian tutor. The last major objective will be to assist **Terry Harmon** in the operations of BVBIU.

Once we return from Ukraine in early June, I plan to visit and give reports to churches during the summer months. There are a few churches I haven’t been to in a while. Near the end of summer, there will be the annual BVBID staff retreat in Denver. Immediately afterwards, Mary and I will be back to Ukraine in time for orientation and the opening day of class of BVBIU in Gorlovka. The duration of our stay there is indefinite at this time; but when we leave, we will fly directly to Tanzania to remain there until near the end of November.

My primary purpose for remaining a longer time at Chimala is to help with the teaching load at the Chimala Bible College. As you may recall, at present

we only have two full-time and one part-time instructors. Garry Hill will also be joining us when we make the final trek from Dar-es-Salaam to Chimala. In addition, it seems the more missionaries we have at Chimala the smoother things seem to go overall at the mission. And I urge all of you reading this newsletter to say an extra prayer for **Randy Gray** as he is the only American missionary at the Chimala Mission at this time. **Bill & Cyndi Stinson** are on furlough at the present time, therefore Randy is doing his very best to keep things going while they are away. Keeping up with two preacher-training schools, a very busy hospital, a primary and secondary school with over 500 students on a 400-acre mission employing 200 people in Eastern Africa is no small task! Please, remember Randy.

### *Winds of Change*

In looking at the future of our involvement in mission work, Mary and I have done a lot of thinking and praying about what direction of involvement we want to go in our current work in world missions. God has blessed us beyond our expectations by means of supportive brethren who believe in us and in our work and have demonstrated that by their continual financial support. In the spring of 2003 we returned from Tanzania in order to allow Sarah, Seth and Nathan to make the transition from high school to college. Mary had home-schooled them while we were in Africa, but college was another story.

In our minds all-along, however, was the idea that when the time was right we would make the transition of gradually reentering the mission field. I have spend as much time as was practical making short trips to various countries in connection with the foreign extension program of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. It has been a great joy to work with both the extension and the Denver staff. In addition, the people I have met and worked with in countries I have visited have left such a lasting impression on me that I will never again look at “*local*” work in the states the same way.

Now with Sarah married and Seth and Nathan settled into college life at FHU, Mary and I feel it is time to start gradually increasing the lengths of time we spend on our mission trips. In a couple of years we

Ferguson Sponsoring  
Congregation

Please send all contributions  
to:

**WESTSIDE CHURCH  
OF  
CHRIST**

3235 HWY 54 WEST  
BROWNSVILLE, TN 38012  
(731) 772-3810

***“Ferguson Mission”***

Monthly commitments and one-time  
donations still needed

**Bear Valley Bible Institute of  
Denver**

A work of the Bear Valley Church of  
Christ, 2707 S. Lamar St, Denver,  
CO  
80227 (303) 986-5800

Howell Ferguson, Ext. Coordinator  
Chimala, Tanzania, E. Africa, and  
Gorlovka, Ukraine  
Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver  
22 Tanbark Cove  
Bells, TN 38006  
(731) 574-1949(h)  
(731) 345-0023(c)  
hferguson@bvbid.org

hope to be full-time again in the mission field as we were in the earlier part of the last decade. As to our destination, we have seriously struggled between two locations: Tanzania and Ukraine. After many prayers and discussions we are leaning heavily toward working in Ukraine. However, because of our love for the people of Tanzania we want to continue to be associated with that work except to a lesser extent. But we are putting all of this in the Lord's hands praying that His will be done in our lives. With that in mind, we still must use the resources God has given us to plan and work our plan.

In the beginning of 2009, we had challenged ourselves that if after studying Russian for a year we would consider if our progress was sufficient to warrant our future goal of working in Ukraine. Honestly, we didn't reach the level for which we had hoped. I assure you, Russian is not an easy language to learn. But in all fairness, I have been told by a number of people that in order to really learn Russian we would need a private tutor. That is definitely what we plan to do. And to be sure, we have at least made a “dent” in learning some Russian.

*Heating System Progress in Gorlovka*

Trying to keep our students warm at BVBIU continues to be a challenge. Progress has been made as the electrical people have installed a power utility pole outside, and some necessary interior wiring has been

done. I received the following brief update from Terry Harmon on January 26<sup>th</sup>:

*“We have some good news/bad news regarding the heating situation. Everything that can be done to date, has been done. We are waiting for the last two stages to be completed, but in order to do the first step, a transformer has to be replaced at the main electrical box located in our region (about 100 yards from the building). The power people will have to turn off the power completely in this region for about five hours and in order to do this, the temperature will have to warm up to 32-35 degrees F so that nothing will freeze up. When we woke up this morning, it was 0 degrees.”*

I realize how annoying it is to keep hearing pleas for financial help for mission works. I've been on both sides of the issue. However, as long as God's work is being done and needs arise, the call for financial help will not go away. I would not ask this for myself, but for them—our students—I will continue to ask God's people to help. BVBIU is still approx. \$2,000 per month short of having their needs met. **Would you consider committing \$100, \$200, \$300 per month, or whatever you can to keep this school open that trains preachers and church workers in Ukraine?** Much of Eastern Europe is depending on it. I'll be leaving for Ukraine in March, but you can still contact me by email. Please pray about it, and then decide. Thanks!  
Howell