

## January's Newsletter

### **Habari za Leo (how are you today),**

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and is having a good start to the New Year. We have been busy as usual, if not busier. When I sent the last news letter we had the Wheeler family here with us. They left on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January headed back to Dar. They spent a whole day in Mikumi National Park and got to see many animals, including several lions. Cyndi is very jealous, because with all of the trips we have made through the park, she has yet to see any lions.

Heath Stapleton and Randy Gray arrived on January 1<sup>st</sup>. They were here for nearly 3 weeks. We got to spend a lot of time together looking at the work and talking about plans for the future of the work here at Chimala Mission. This was Randy's first trip to the mission. I spent a lot of time showing him around and telling him all about the many works that go on here at the mission. Your first time here is always a real eye opener. Most people when they come to the mission for the first time are surprised with the magnitude of the size of the work here. Even though you can here about it for years and see pictures, you can never really grasp what all goes on here until you see it in person. Randy had the opportunity to speak and preach at several different churches. He also got treated to a couple of visits to the Maasi village. While there he got to eat in the village and have some authentic Tanzanian food. I think he was a little nervous (I remember my first time to experience this), but it was good and no one got sick.

I have started teaching my course on Church Leadership at CSOP this month. I am really enjoying the chance to help these young men understand the scriptural need for proper leadership in the church. None of them have ever experienced this, because it does not exist in the church here in Tanzania. Even though they know the scriptures speak of this, they have never seen the example and really do not understand the concept. They really do not understand what elders are supposed to do. I have a big challenge to make them understand all of this, but they seem to be getting the idea.

We went on the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> back to Dar to take Heath and Randy back to the airport and to pick up Jason and Madesha and their family. Unfortunately they had some bad luck coming here. They had bad weather in the states when they were leaving and had some flights get delayed and then when they got here, none of their luggage arrived with them. They also got here sick with something like the flu. They ended up staying in Dar all week trying to get their entire luggage and trying to get to feeling better. They finally arrived on Friday at the mission. They are getting settled in and are finally starting to feel a little better. While in Dar we were able to get business matters done. We have to file a report with the government every year for the church registration here in Tanzania. We also worked on the Vath's residence permit. Then we went to the clearing agent's office to check on what was needed to get the next container sent with approval for government assistance. We were able to get the info we needed and hopefully we will be able to ship the container in the next couple of months. It has been over two years since

there was a container shipped over here. There are many valuable supplies setting at NYA waiting to be shipped.

We have been very busy this month getting houses ready for the new missionary families. We worked hard on Jason and Madesha's house trying to get all of the necessary repairs done and painting completed. The work unfortunately ran into the week after they arrived, but this way they were able to have some say in how they wanted things done. We have also been working on the house that Kyle and Melissa will be moving into. They are arriving on the 6<sup>th</sup>. We are excited about them getting here. Kyle plans on working full time with the hospital and it definitely needs someone there full time.

During all of the craziness, I still get the opportunity to preach and teach somewhere two or three times a week. Last weekend we went to a congregation here close to the mission, but we had never ever made it there before (there about 100 congregations that have been started by this work). After I preached about the need for us Christians to be caring and loving, and that we should check on those that are struggling, we had a great response. At the end of services they met and divided up names of members that they knew that needed visiting. Then a young man there came forward and said he wanted to be baptized. These are the kind of days that help you make the sacrifices we make to be here.

As always, we want to thank everyone that makes it possible for us to be here. If you see our kids and grandkids, give them a hug for us.

In His Service,

Bill and Cyndi