

April's Newsletter

Habari za Leo (how are you today),

We hope everyone is doing well. The month of April has been a good month with plenty of things going on here. We have had more visitors this month. Dr. Danny Smelser and his wife Nancy were here for almost three weeks. It was a great blessing to have them here to help with the hospital. You could tell a difference having them here. The attitude of the people, the influence of a good Christian doctor, and the increase in patients coming to the hospital all were evidences that we had someone good working at the hospital. We have also had two medical students from the UK here since the 19th of the month. They are getting ready enter their final year of medical school. They have been helpful at the hospital and seem to think highly of Chimala Mission. They have done work in third world countries before and said this has been their best experience ever.

I continue to move forward on the construction of the Secondary School. We are in the final stages of having the two Classroom Buildings, Administration Building, and two Restroom Buildings finished. After this I need to complete the Girls Dorm, build the Headmasters house, and build a Kitchen for the dorm. We are being held up on two fronts right now. We are trying to get an exemption from the government on sales tax (which is 20% here) on 600 bags of cement and supplies for the well. This exemption is worth over \$3,000.00, so we need to wait. The problem is, when you try to do something with government here, it is an exercise in patience. I worked for about three weeks going back and forth to Mbeya and even one trip to Dar and they had finally told me I could pick it up on Friday. Well, I went there on Friday and while she was putting all of the papers together, she starts to apologize. I knew something was wrong and sure enough, she says I have to send this to Dar for final approval and this will take a month. Fun, Fun, Fun. As I said we are being held up on two fronts with second being a need of additional funds. Last year after I had been here a few months, I did an estimate for the elders on how much it was going to cost to finish the school. The numbers were rather staggering, but so far they have proven to be right on target. I estimated that it would take over \$70,000 to open the school this year. We had a couple good checks come in around the end of the year and the first of this year, but now those have been spent and we still need another \$35,000. If you know someone that would be willing to help out, we surely could use the funds.

I mentioned the well earlier and we have done some work while waiting on the exemption. We have the ditch dug from the well to the storage tank area, which is over 1,500 feet. We have also got the electricity run to the well. So, as soon as I get the exemption on the well equipment, we should be able to move forward quickly.

We have had some excitement around here again this month. We had another Black Mamba show itself. It was in a bush between the Smalling House and the CSOP buildings. It was in a dangerous place because many people walk by this area and Mambas can strike unprovoked. I took the shotgun down and killed it. It was between 6 and 7' long. I figure we had run it out of the garden area which is near there. Since I have

been here, the garden area has been pretty much unkept. I decided a few weeks ago that this was a great waste. The garden is probably a 4-5 acre piece of land with good soil. It also has many fruit trees. I talked to the rest of the missionary families about this and we agreed that we would all go into this together a pay a gardener to work full time in the garden and in our banana garden. We have gotten it all cleared and some vegetables planted already. One of the things I really want is sweet corn. The corn they grow here is much different from what we have in States. I have seen the seeds for sweet corn here before, but ever since they had the problems in Kenya, we have not been able to buy it here. This has been true on several items including some of the medicines we buy. A lot of the products come into port in Kenya because it had been the better port. The port in Dar has huge problems because of poor management. Anyways, hopefully here in a couple of months we will have a lot of our own fresh vegetables.

Both Bible Schools have been going well nearing the end of their second quarter. We will have both schools on break during part of May. CSOP has the whole month off and CBC has a two break. This will allow them to be able to help work in the WBS campaign. We are getting ready to get started. This is always an exciting time here at Chimala Mission. During the next four weeks we will hopefully have many baptisms and encourage many of the Christians in several of the local congregations. (I can tell you that things have already gotten off to a good start) Chimala Bible College will have their first graduation on May 30th. These 10 men will receive the BA diploma and this is something they can be proud of.

Personally I have continued to preach somewhere different every Sunday morning. I did lose one Sunday morning when the car I was driving decided it did not want to go any further. It was one of the ones we had been working on and I guess it was not quite ready to go that far. This was the reason I drove it instead of turning it loose with someone else. I recognized it was having problems and stopped. Someone else might have kept pushing it and did some damage, but we able to bring it back and correct the problem. It turned out that the mechanic who had put the motor together did not torque the head correctly and the head gasket was starting to leak. The next week we went back to the same place again and we made it this time. The village is called Mpolo and has had a church for a few years, but they have never have had their own building. They have been meeting in a Primary School building that was actually built by the mission years ago. They had the walls up and were happy to hear that we had received money from the states to pay for them a roof. The people here are able to build the walls by making the brick themselves and getting them laid, but the cost of rafters and the tin is out of the reach of most village congregations. We can put a roof on their buildings for about \$500.00. Mpolo is the first place where the campaign starts so we made sure that they had their roof in time for the campaign. One of the other places we went was Majombe. This is one of the older congregations around. It is not too far from the mission and several of our employs attend services there. They have a similar problem; they needed a new building because theirs had gotten in poor shape. Their building is over 40 years old and that is old for a building made from mud bricks. They also had the walls up on their new building, but are waiting on a roof. We have also received money for a new roof for them. They are getting their roof within the next few days. I also continue to teach every Sunday afternoon at

Mahongo and Wednesday afternoon at Chosi A. I am teaching the same thing at both congregations, the book of Acts. I am trying to finish up by the time we leave for annual visit home at the end of July.

Mentioning our visit home, it is time to start getting our schedule firmed up. If you are interested in a visit/presentation, we would love to come and see you. We will be available August 13 thru September 21 for presentations. If you have a Wednesday or a Sunday that would be available at your home congregation, we would love to come preach, and make a presentation. If your congregation has a mission committee that would prefer to meet during the week we can work that out also. We leave here on July 25th and arrive back in states on July 26th. The way time is flying by, that will be here before you know it. We look forward to seeing everyone when we get home and in the mean time, if you see our kids and grandkids, give them a hug for us.

In His Service,

Bill and Cyndi Stinson