

March's Newsletter

Habari za Kazi (how is your work),

Our work has been good, just as busy as ever. Every part of the work here seems to be running full speed ahead. I will try to give a brief update on every area.

At the hospital, Kyle and Melissa are working hard trying to get a full understanding of all of the many functions our hospital is involved in. They have made progress in several areas. We seem to be getting closer to the government help that has been promised, but nothing ever moves too fast when it comes to the government here. I feel confident that we are going to get the extra help; it is just a matter of exactly when. We continue to try to hold on until more help comes. Please keep the hospital in your prayers. We did receive some good news today. Dr. Danny Smelser and his wife Nancy just contacted us saying that they are able to come and work at the hospital for most of the month of April. This will be a big help. An American M.D. brings a big plus to a 3rd world hospital like ours. We also have two Doctors coming in June, so this will also help. We just keep praying for someone to come and work full time. If anyone knows someone that is a doctor that might like give his time serving in a hospital like ours we would love to have him come.

At Chimala School of Preaching and at Chimala Bible College, both schools are back in session at this time. They are both in their second quarters. Between the two schools we have over 30 men being trained to be preachers. These men should be able to continue the growth of the Lords Church for many years. Talking about evangelism, we just received the exact dates that the World Bible School truck will be here. It will arrive on May 1st and be here the entire month of May. This is probably one of the most of the exciting times here at Chimala Mission. We take this big, specialized truck out into the villages and set it up and start preaching. We do some ground work ahead of time handing out tracts and work with people individually during the campaign. We will usually have between 60-100 baptisms during these campaigns. I know some of my preacher friends back home that love evangelism work are wishing they could be here. I wish you could be also. I would also like to let you know that Jason's work is starting to take off. He has been putting a lot of effort in working with the congregations in Mbeya. I know this work has already lead to some baptisms there. Chris continues to work teaching at CSOP full time and he has done most of the work getting the schedule together for the WBS truck.

Dealing with my personal work I have been doing, I continue to teach at two of the local congregations here on Wednesday afternoon and on Sunday afternoon. On Sunday morning, we are still trying to visit all of the different congregations around here that have been started by this work over the years. On the 3rd Sunday of this month we went the Mbozi region to a congregation named Wasa. I had been to this area in 2001 on one my trips over here. On that trip we traveled with Heath Stapleton and Frank and Barbra Bueter. On the day we went there, Frank, Heath, I and some of the CSOP students all traveled out there. We attended morning services at the Wasa village. They were meeting

in a public school building and they had a Pentecostal group meeting next door. We could barely hear because of all of the drum beating they were doing over there. After services Heath explained that they had found a piece of property, but they had not been able to raise all of the funds they needed to buy it. Frank and I asked how much they lacked and it was just a little over a hundred dollars. Frank and I pulled out wallets and help them get the property they needed. I do not tell you this to sound boastful, but to fill you in on a funny story. My interpreter, Menard, comes from this area. He has been trying to get me to go there for a long time so I can see where he is from. One day he said “you never have seen where I am from”. I told that was not true and told him the story I just told before. His eyes got big and he said “that was you, I was there” It turns out that he was one of the CSOP students that was traveling with us that day. I had never realized that and he had never realized who I was. He started recalling the events of the day, including a baptism that we did in a very shallow creek; it was hard to find a place deep enough to completely immerse someone. Well, when we went in 2001, it was not the rainy season and now that I have been in the rainy season I probably will not go again in the rainy season. It took us over 3 hours each way and the last hour and twenty minutes was on a mud road that actually made me glad that I had driven dirt track race cars for several years. I believe if I had not had that experience, we would have wound up in a ditch somewhere along the way. The road was very high mounded in the center and very, very slick. If you ever got off of exact center your car would start to the ditch. I was in 4 wheel drive all of the way, but the only way you could keep it out of the ditch sometimes was actually drive with the gas pedal back to the center. If you ever touched the brake you would have slid off in the ditch for sure. We did get there finally and we had a good service and some of the older people seemed to remember me from 2001. We got to meet Menard’s mother and I was glad of that. The only problem was that it continued to rain while we were in worship, so the road was even worse going back. We managed to stay on the road all of the way, though we did have to stop and push on vehicle out of the way that had lost control and was partially blocking the road. I had Denny Petrillo and Keith Kasarjian from Bear Valley with us, so they had quite a story to tell when they got home.

The next Sunday we went to Kiboani which is much closer, but we had never been there. When we got there, none of the members were there. The door was unlocked, so we went in. The first thing you notice is that there is some kind of droppings all over the floor. My first thought was rats, but then I thought no, does not seem quite like rats. Then it hit me and I looked up and sure enough it was bats, not rats. We have been having bats around our house at night the last couple of weeks. There was probably close to a hundred of them roosting up in the rafters. We got the floor swept out, but the bats stayed for service. We had a good turn out of people, but I am sure there were more bats than people. The service was good and we enjoyed it. I preached a new sermon and Menard told me it was good, so I guess he liked it. He does not say anything one way or the other most of the time.

As far as the rest of my responsibilities go, I am still working on about all of the same projects that I was when I wrote my letter last month. Still trying to get cars running, get a well operational, get a secondary school built and open and keep everything going around the mission. I never lack for anything to do. As I said last month, we will be home

in August and September doing some fund raising and visiting supporters, I hope to see many of you and as always, if you would like to have a presentation, let us know. If you see my kids and grandkids, give them a hug for us.

In Him,

Bill and Cyndi