

Chimala Mission, Hospital, and Schools

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Chimala Newsletter - Chris and Tam Raynor — August 2006

Time does fly by. Tam and I are doing well, with both of us teaching almost every day. Some times we only see each other at breakfast, lunch and in the evening.

We are in the dry season now, but we were surprised with a 45 minute rain the other day. It sure was nice, because a day and a half of dust was reduced. With the wind and the dust, everybody's sinuses are flared up. The rainy season won't start until December. We are praying that we have a better rainy season this year. Last year the Tanzanian farms suffered through lack of rain.

The school of preaching is coming to an end for the quarter. Next week is their finals, and the students are getting ready for their tests. I taught two new classes Leviticus – Deuteronomy and Proverbs. I enjoyed preparing for these classes and I enjoyed learning along with the students. After next week, the men will have a short break.

The Primary School is finishing their quarter as well. Tam has all the grades in the computer and the report cards printed. On the 13th and 14th of September the 7th grade class took their national test. This test allows them to leave primary school and go to secondary school. They have been working hard to prepare for this test, and we all have been praying for them. Then on September 21st they had their graduation ceremony.

This month I have been working with two of the churches where the gospel meetings were held in July. The Mfumbi church of Christ had over 25 baptisms. On Sunday mornings Xavery and I have been going over the basics with them (worship, the church, being a Christian). This congregation has doubled their size. The other congregation is the Usalimwani church of Christ that had 10 baptisms. I'm teaching them the same lessons. I am also encouraging the original members to help these new souls, by being examples to them. Too many here leave the church shortly after becoming Christians. I will be close to these two churches for possibly the rest of the year.

On the 11th of September the East Africa Lectureship began. The three East African Swahili-speaking countries (Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda) come together for this big lectureship. Last year it was held in Kenya. Linkos Mkwama went to the Kenya meeting and he told us that it was a big event. This year it is going to be held here in Chimala. I'm looking forward to seeing all the people come. This last Saturday I saw some of the people walking through and looking at the mission. Many of these people will have traveled 1000's of kilometers to come. During the morning and afternoon, they go house to house to evangelize. Then in the evening they have the gospel meeting. This is some thing we can learn from these Christians. They have true zeal for teaching the lost and holding gospel meetings (old time gospel meetings).

Three weeks ago Patrick, the preacher for the Madunguru church of Christ (the Maasai village), lost his wife. Many of you who have visited the mission knew Melea. She sold the Maasai necklaces and bracelets that they make. Linkosi, Boaz and I, went to her funeral. Their funerals here are not like ours, leaving me unable to describe them in written words. One thing I can say, though, it was very emotional. When we arrived,

“...into all the world...”

Linkosi and the others went in to the house where her body was laid. Boaz and I were with the men digging the grave. I was looking around and couldn't see Patrick anywhere. One of the men asked if I would like to sit under a tree. We walked about 100 yards, and there was a man sitting under this tree. As we got closer, it was Patrick all by himself. When he saw me he got up and hugged me and we both cried for what seemed forever. He was the first Tanzanian to hug me.

Today Boaz and I, and others, went to Madunguru for worship and to encourage Patrick. Please keep Patrick in your prayers as he is now raising three small children alone. His mother-in-law is helping with his new baby who is doing fine.

Tam and I are thankful for all your prayers, your letters, e-mails, and for your support that help us do the Lord's work here at Chimala Mission.

In Christian love,
Chris and Tam Raynor

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