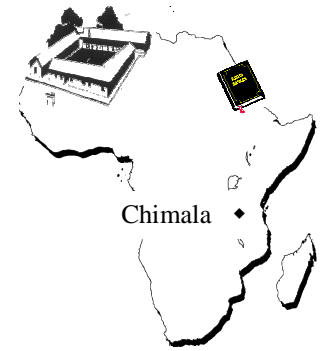


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Chimala Newsletter—Chris and Tam Raynor — December 2006

Happy New Year! Time does fly. The month of December, for the most part, was slow with all the schools closed. I have been busy preparing for the opening of both the school of preaching and the primary school. One day last month all the teachers of the preaching school met to make our curriculum, and also to make our schedule of seminar events for the new year of 2007.

During the 1st quarter I have four classes to teach. (Tuesday) Between the Testaments, which is a new class for the school here. (Wednesday and Friday) until noon I teach Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. (Wednesday pm.1:00-3:30) I will teach New Testament Survey, and (Friday afternoon) The Basics of Christian Faith. So, I'll be busy this first quarter.

On January 21st is this part of the country's first "Friendship Day." This will be held at the Changombe church of Christ. On these events we spend the whole day with the church at that location. There will be three lessons, and food is provided. It is a time for us to get to know the members from the different churches of Christ. The congregation at Changombe is fairly new. It was started by our head teacher of the school of preaching, Joshua Mwakyasima. The theme for this year is Worship, Evangelism, and Encouragement.

We received the report the other day on the 7th graders of 2006. The entire class passed their national test, all 68. One of our boys, Jackson Juma, did so well that he has been chosen to go to a special school. We are all happy for the 7th graders, as they worked hard to pass. They would spend many days studying after school, and on Saturdays. While the other kids would be on break, they would be in the classroom preparing. The break between primary school and secondary school (high school) is about four months. During this time, many of the parents send their children to English school, because here in Tanzania, secondary school is taught only in English.

Each morning on the mission we have devotion. With the schools closed for their breaks I have been worshiping at the shop. The other day in the shop devotional, Darrin and I truly realized we were in Africa. During our closing song and prayer, there was all this noise outside in the trees. It was so loud we could not hear the prayer. The trees in the shop area were full of monkeys! Darrin and I both said at the same time, "I'm putting this in my newsletter!" It's the little things like the monkeys that make life fun. These monkeys spend most of the time down by the river near the primary school, but for some reason they came up into the center of the mission to fight. They are called "Black-faced Velvet Monkeys, and are about the size of a medium-sized dog.

Our son in the faith, Thomas, is growing physically, but more so spiritually. He still goes with me on Sundays and Wednesdays for worship. He's been helping some in the worship services by leading songs, and I sit there in my seat like a proud father. On our way home Xavery (my translator) and I will encourage him. Last Friday evening we had Xavery, Remmy (one of the preachers that I help support) and Thomas over for supper.

"...into all the world..."