



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 3 No. 6

“Go ye unto all the world”

June 2006

## Three New Students at CBC

Life has been very busy after arriving back to the States from our last trip to Tanzania as we have been trying to play “catch-up.” We left May 20<sup>th</sup> and returned June 10<sup>th</sup>. Our jet-lag lasted about a week and things got pretty much back to normal. Mary and I were impressed with how nice things looked around the house. We are proud of Sarah, Seth, and Nathan for acting so responsibly while we were away and keeping the home fires burning. The only mishaps while we were away were Sarah’s hamster died, Seth was bitten by a spider, and Nathan received a very bad sun burn.

Back at Chimala things went very smoothly. All of our travels by air and road were uneventful although they were very long and tiring. I accomplished my task of teaching hermeneutics and Denton Landon taught the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. I was also able to spend considerable time with Bernard Kulanga, the CBC director. He is still trying to “fit” into his new job. While I was there I tried to help him set up his office. Inside one of my large pieces of luggage I was able to carry a Canon copying machine that had been donated. It was a real concern of mine whether it would make the trip or not. It did make it with only the glass shattered. A local *fundi* (skilled worker) measured and cut a replacement glass for it; it works as good as new! I wouldn’t advise doing that again, however.

Two metal file cabinets and hanging folders which we had shipped earlier were moved into Bernard’s office in addition to the repaired copier. Bernard was speechless with the new equipment. It was a very happy but also humbling experience watching his expressions of excitement because his office has so little in it. Another part of setting up his office was creating necessary forms and a filing system. I gathered what I could from their previous attempts at making forms. The completed forms I was able to create and leave with him included a CBC application form, a CBC advertisement tract, a CBC student handbook, a permanent student record form, and a CBC director job description. I left these in both a hardcopy and electronic version.

Since my previous visit back in Nov – Dec of

last year, three more students have enrolled in CBC. They are Asifiwe Mickson, Mostead Simwaba, and Menard Swila. Each of these men comes to us with a love for God and a desire to learn His will in order to teach others. They are all good students who work hard at their studies. And each one has a life story that is unique.



**Asifiwe Mickson:** 31 years old; unmarried; has no children; was born at the Chimala Mission Hospital; obeyed the gospel in 2003; completed primary and secondary education;

began working at the Chimala Mission as a guard in 2003 and a gardener in 2004; enrolled in CBC in March of 2006.



**Mostead Simwaba:** 46 years old; married with four children – 2 boys and 2 girls; born in Malawi; completed primary education; was formerly a professional thief and

robber until his conscience convicted him of his sin and he obeyed the gospel in 2002; enrolled in CSOP in 2003 and graduated in 2005; enrolled in CBC in March 2006; currently preaches at Simike; considers himself fortunate that “God saves even those who have done many bad things like me.” (1 Tim. 1:12-15)



**Menard Swila:** 28 years old; married with one daughter; was only able to complete his primary education due to his father’s severe economic condition; obeyed the

gospel in 2000; graduate of CSOP and enrolled in CBC in March 2006; preaches for one of the local bush congregations.

(continued)

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(From front page)

I had mentioned in an earlier newsletter that most of the students are currently employed by the Chimala Mission and have housing. As the student enrolment increases consideration will have to be given to having a place for them to live. The Chimala Mission administrator, Darrin Stapleton is already on top of this and has a student dorm nearing completion. While we were there workers had nearly finished laying the brick walls. This dorm has 12 bedrooms each accommodating 2 students for a total capacity of 24 students. There is also a common “sitting” area for studying, relaxing or devotionals.



*CBC dorm walls nearly completed.*

Communication at Chimala is still a concern although there has been some improvement. Celtel, a local cell-phone communication service in Tanzania now offers wireless data capability using either a desktop computer with a serial port or a laptop computer using a GSM PCMCIA card. Darrin Stapleton has already purchased the equipment for his own use and demonstrated it for us while we were there. It's not exactly high-speed cable and since there is a rate-per-minute airtime charge you have to be careful about how much time elapses. But it certainly beats making a 2-hour round trip to Mbeya especially with diesel fuel at \$4.50 per gallon. For now, this is the communication route we will probably take at least until cable makes its way to Chimala. And there has been some rumor of internet capability being offered through satellite television which is currently available at Chimala.

As I close this newsletter, I want to again thank all of the churches and individuals who support this work and especially those who made it possible for Mary to travel with me on this last visit to Tanzania. The encouragement she brought not only to me but also to dear friends we left in Africa three years ago is beyond words to describe. God is accomplishing great things in East Africa through your service and sacrifice. May God bless you always. Howell